FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 040

28 February 1984

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT/START/MBFR

U.S. Urging NATO To Join in 'Star Wars' Plan AA 1
Comment on Potential for U.S.-USSR Arms Talks AA 2
Falin Questions U.S. Stand AA 2
[IZVESTIYA 26 Feb]
Resumption Depends on U.S. AA 4
[Kozyakov]
U.S., Soviet Positions Contrasted AA 5
[Ilichev]
Conditions for Resumption AA 6
[Semeyko]
Predeployment Status Needed AA 7
[Losev]
Proposal for Nonuse-of-Force Treaty Applauded AA 8
[Kelin in NEW TIMES No 7]
Nuclear Nonproliferation Discussed With Canada AA 13

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

'Druzhba-84' Exercises Commencing in Poland BB 1

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Disarmament, Nicaragua, Iran-Iraq War Viewed CC 1
[Kharlanov in PRAVDA 26 Feb]
NATO Military Exercises Begin in Norway CC 4

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Handling of Threats Against USSR Missions Hit A 1
U.S.'Connivance' in Attacks A 1
[Pozner]
Notifications 'Ignored' A 2
[Kornilov]
Foreign Trade Minister Receives U.S. Businessman A 3

CHINA

Reagan Talk Shows Continued 'Two Chinas' Stance B 1
[PRAVDA 26 Feb]
Brzezinski Visits PRC, Meets With Deng Xiaoping B 1
[IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]
PRC Commemorates Soviet Army, Navy Day B 1
PRC Provinces B 1
PRC Friendship Group B 1
Amity Society Marks Chinese Writer's Birthday B 2
China Denies Illegal High-Tech Imports From U.S. B 2
[Zholkver]

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan Set To Submit to U.S. Bases Plans C 1
Mongolia's Tsedenbal Leaves Moscow After Vacation C 1
[PRAVDA 27 Feb]
USSR, Mongolian Citizenship Convention Ratified C 1
[IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]

SOUTH ASIA

U.S. 'Impeding' Pakistan-DRA Rapprochement D 1
[Lavrov]
Kabul News Conference 'Exposes' U.S. Role D 2

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

New Zealand Prime Minister in U.S. For Visit E 1
[Shalnev]
U.S. 'Pressure' 'Serious Threat' to Australia E 1
[Kharkov]
Pacific Countries Protest French Nuclear Tests E 2
PRK's Hun Sen Stops in Moscow on Way to Africa E 3
[IZVESTIYA 23 Feb]
Sihanouk Trips, Actions 'Pathetic Farce' E 3
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Feb]
Indonesia's Foreign Minister Hails Ties With SRV E 3
SRV, PRK, Laos Traveling 'Great Road' in Asia E 5
[PRAVDA]

EASTERN EUROPE

SFRY Delegation Pays 'Friendly Business Visit' F 1
Arrives in Moscow F 1
Delegation Members Named [TANJUG] F 1
Introductory Statements [TANJUG] F 1
Zarkovic, Kuznetsov Talk [TANJUG] F 2
Topics of Talks Detailed [Belgrade] F 3
'Warm, Comradely' Talks F 3
Zarkovic Moscow Briefing [TANJUG] F 4
Nuriyev Leads Delegation on Visit to Belgrade F 5
USSR, SFRY Extend Economic Cooperation F 5
Rusakov Receives Bulgarian Friendship Body Chief F 6
[IZVESTIYA 22 Feb]
Demichev Meets With GDR Culture Minister F 6
[PRAVDA 23 Feb]
GDR Paper Hits 'Revanchist' Bonn Statement F 6
[PRAVDA 16 Feb]
SED, PCF Statement on Honecker, Marchais Talks F 7
CSSR, GDR 'Unanimously Support' Countermeasures F 7
[Levin]

WESTERN EUROPE

FRG Minister's Views on Euromissiles Assailed G 1
[Vinogradov in IZVESTIYA 20 Feb]
Weinberger Begins Talks With UK's Thatcher G 1

'Splendid Quality' of USSR-Austrian Ties Noted G 2
[Melnikov in PRAVDA 22 Feb]
Briefs: Austrian Friendship Protocol G 4

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Reagan's Press Conference Remarks on Lebanon H 1
[PRAVDA 26 Feb]
Shultz Given 'Main Blame' for Lebanon 'Defeat' [Fesunenko] H 1
Egypt Differs With U.S. on Mideast Policy H 2
[Peresada in PRAVDA 25 Feb]
U.S. Aircraft Fly Over Syrian Positions H 3
U.S. 'Election Considerations' Force Marine Withdrawal H 3
[Kondrashov in IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]
Marines' Move, 'Defeat' Responsibility Examined H 4
[Druzhinin, Gusev]
U.S. Efforts To 'Reshape' Lebanon Fail [Kondrashov] H 4
Lebanon-Grenada Parallels Seen in U.S. Policy [Beglov] H 5
Lebanese Civilian Population Suffering Depicted H 6
[Popov, Kondrashov]
Iraqi Aircraft Strike Iranian Oil Terminal H 8
U.S. Destroyer Fires on Iranian Plane in Gulf H 8
Iranian Offensive, Casualty Reports Noted H 8
Iraq, Iran Communiques on Combat Operations H 9
U.S. Seen Exploiting 'Senseless' Iran-Iraq War [Kharlanov] H 10
U.S. Provocations in Persian Gulf Region Viewed [Lavrentyev] H 10
Criticism of Moscow's Iran Policy Answered H 11
[Volskiy in NEW TIMES Feb]
Kuwaiti Policies, Attitudes, National Day Hailed H 13
Kuwaiti Ambassador on Friendship With USSR H 14
Briefs: USSR-Algerian Cooperation Commission H 15

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Salvadoran Resistance Spokesman Interviewed K 1
[IZVESTIYA 20 Feb]
Argentine Offer of Falklands Talks Noted K 2
[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 22 Feb]
Guyana Envoy Sees USSR Ties 'Growing Stronger' K 2
Castro Address to Trade Union Congress Noted K 3

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Chernenko Letter of Thanks for Election, Unity R 1
Gromyko Addresses Minsk-Moskovskiy Electorate R 1
[IZVESTIYA 28 Feb]
Supreme Soviet Election Procedures Outlined R 8
[IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]
Vorotnikov Chairs RSFSR Government Session R 10
[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 22 Feb]
Grishin Lauds Chernenko in Moscow Plenum Speech R 11
[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Feb]
Aliyev, Gorbachev Sign Composer's Obitury R 23
[PRAVDA 23 Feb]
Arkhipov Presents Banner to Sverdlovsk Oblast R 23
[TRUD 26 Feb]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

January Industrial Plan Figures Reported S 1
[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA Feb]
Civil Aviation Minister Views Aeroflot's Growth S 7
Economic Experiment's First Month Viewed S 9
[Shimanskiy in IZVESTIYA 18 Feb]
CPSU CC Criticizes Economics Institute S 10
Briefs: New Bridge in Dnepropetrovsk; Off-Shore Gas in Crimea; S 10
New Pipeline

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Soviet Member of Joint Space Mission Replaced U 1
Cosmonauts Continue Experiments, Exploration U 1
Flight Follows Program U 1
Study Krasnodar-Caspian Areas U 2
Work Schedule Outlined U 2
Dock With Salyut-7 U 2
Low-Pressure Gas Current Rectifier Developed U 3
[Novodvorskiy in IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Ustinov Speaks at Defense Ministry Aktiv Meeting V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Feb]
Military, Peoples' Unity Hailed on Army, Navy Day V 5
[Editorial in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Feb]
Need for Boosting Soviet Defense Strength Viewed V 7
[Zaytsev in Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 23 Feb]
Deputy Defense Minister Kurkotkin Interviewed V 8
[SMENA]
Deputy Defense Minister Tolubko Interviewed V 10
[NARODNA ARMIYA 23 Feb]

U.S. URGING NATO TO JOIN IN 'STAR WARS' PLAN

LD272203 Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 27 Feb 84

["'Star Wars' Over Europe?" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels February 27 TASS -- A U.S. expert team gave a secret briefing to its NATO partners on U.S. plans to use space for military ends. As is clear from a report in the bulletin NOUVELLE ATLANTIQUE published in Brussels, at last week's seminar in the NATO Headquarters U.S. experts recommended that the European NATO countries "lose no time" in joining the USA in developing and putting in space beam weapons and the most advanced military equipment. The basis for the new U.S. plans for militarized space is provided by ideas expressed by President Reagan in March 1983 on preparing the USA for the so-called "star wars." This presupposes the use by the United States of the latest scientific and technological achievements for preparing and waging a war in space and from space against earth-based targets. This includes, among other things, the establishment of "space defence" against ballistic missiles.

The sine die 1972 treaty on limiting ABM systems remains valid between the Soviet Union and the United States. This treaty imposes certain limitations on developing and expanding such systems. The treaty, thus, specifies that the sides undertake not to develop, test or deploy sea-, air-, space-, or mobile ground-based systems or components. The Soviet Union strictly sticks to the framework of that treaty. On the other hand, however, as is pointed out in an aide memoire submitted by the Soviet Government to the U.S. Administration last January, ABM systems are being developed in the United States which, if deployed, would go beyond the framework permitted by the treaty and would thus effectively undermine it. In March of last year the American side officially unveiled plans to develop such a large-scale system.

According to a REUTER news agency report, U.S. experts assured their NATO partners that Western Europe is easier to defend against ballistic missiles than the U.S. territory, since the flight time factor is allegedly less important than the size of the territory.

Considering the above "arguments" it is not difficult to see what Washington is trying to obtain from its NATO partners: In the wake of the start of the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles -- Pershing-2 and cruise missiles -- in some of the West European countries, the U.S. leaders also wish to use their West European allies for transforming space over Europe into an arena for waging a war. And as has been the case with nuclear medium-range missiles, in this case, too, the U.S. strategists intend to turn Western Europe into U.S. frontline positions with all the ensuring consequences. And this at a time when both sides have committed themselves not to pass on to other states or to deploy outside their national territories ABM systems or their components subject to restrictions under the treaty.

There is no doubt that the attempts to draw the NATO partners of the United States into developing anti-ballistic missile systems in space, too, can only be regarded as a flagrant violation by the U.S. side of the existing Soviet-American agreements on the issue.

COMMENT ON POTENTIAL FOR U.S.-USSR ARMS TALKS

Falin Questions U.S. Stand

PM271100 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Valentin Falin "Political Observer's Opinion": "Who Are They Fooling"]

[Text] If you compare what official Washington is now saying and writing about the problems of war and peace with the speeches and treatises of 3 or 4 years ago, you may get the impression that America is experiencing another revolution. This time a seemingly constructive one. R. Reagan, at any rate publicly, is no longer fulminating against the Soviet Union, is not condemning agreement as a method of "appeasing the communists," and is quite often calling himself a long-standing and convinced supporter of "radical disarmament" and even of the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Everything possible is being done to propound the thesis that the overall world situation has become more stable lately, that the West's security has strengthened, and that you only have to "get" the Soviet Union back to the negotiating table in Geneva and the land will flow with milk and honey.

The statement of the recent meeting of the NATO Special Consultative Group advertises a "sincere desire to resume efforts aimed at limiting and reducing intermediate-range nuclear weapons systems" and promises to act henceforth in a spirit of harmony. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State R. Burt, who led the session, spoke "of importance of making it clear that we (NATO) are prepared to hold talks at the signal" from Moscow. A real subject for icon painters.

The Atlantic bloc, the argument runs, is responding to the peoples' aspirations and the ball is in the socialist countries' court.

You can pour out of a jug only what it has in it, the poet said. But what can you pour out if there is not a drop in it, if the jug is dry?

Let's suppose it has occurred to the head of the U.S. Administration that he has gone too far in his militant arch-conservatism and that it is now time to backpedal a little. Since it is clear to the overwhelming majority of people in both West and East that the United States is provoking an uncontrollable chain reaction, why should the President not realize this? But once you have said your long-awaited "but," do please link your practical actions with it. Especially as an opportunity for this presented itself -- the government was preparing the draft federal budget for 1985 for submission to Congress. And what transpired? They made their talk more honeyed, but they increased military spending in the budget. It leaped to $313 billion, which is $53 billion more than this year's record appropriations. What is the worth of peace-loving talk when it reeks of a militarist spirit a mile away? Deception is deception, for all that NATO propaganda is softening and is seeking "positive signals" and hints of the possibility of changes in the future.

The abandonment of foulmouthed abuse is no exploit. It is merely observance of the decencies. If you like, it is a show of respect for the state post in which R. Reagan finds himself by the whim of fate. And it is at the very least complacent to expect Washington's return to civilized language to prompt a flood of gifts.

Only with a distorted view of the subject is it possible to support that the creation and accumulation of increasingly insidious and destructive weapons systems can clear the way for even the most modest disarmament, let alone "radical" disarmament. The "prohibition of nuclear weapons" was clearly not what Washington had in mind when it wrecked the talks on the complete prohibition of nuclear test explosions, refused to ratify the well-known 1974 and 1976 treaties, and adopted a massive program for the modernization and expansion of U.S. nuclear arsenals covering the period through the end of the present decade. It was not concern for preventing nuclear catastrophe that motivated the White House when it issued instructions to its representatives in the United Nations to vote against resolutions condemning the use of nuclear weapons and demanding a freeze on production of them. In short, a comparison of the words and the deeds will dispel the illusion, if illusions have arisen anywhere.

What about the "stabilization" of the international situation? What has defused the tension and is making it possible to look calmly to the future, according to the American leaders' assurances? It turns out that the cranking up of the arms race and the deployment of American first-strike systems in West Europe have created some kind of "safety margin" and have "cleansed the United States from the stigma of inferiority"; now Washington will not get nervous and is open to serious dialogue. Thus the orgy of force that the world has seen since R. Reagan's ascension to the Presidency and the qualitatively new round of the arms race that the United States has begun have been misinterpreted by the world public as a threat. In reality Washington has done mankind a favor in that still more unknown quantities have appeared in the equation of fear, and its solution has become even less predictable.

From a common sense viewpoint this is total absurdity. Missiles are not the best steps toward trust. The doctrine of direct confrontation is no basis for mutual understanding. The deployment of strategic facilities on the doorstep of another state is an overt challenge designed to exacerbate, certainly not to reconcile.

And the United States is perfectly well aware of this, but it is to the administration's advantage to pretend that the opposite is happening. The Republicans have to convince voters that their militarist labors have not been in vain, that the position-of-strength policy is bearing fruit, and that the taxpayers have received compensation for their sacrifices in the form of "greater" security. It is no accident that the verbal volte-face coincided with R. Reagan's decision to run for a second term. Incidentally, not only Democrats but also many Republican figures have assessed his rhetoric accordingly.

As for the newfound U.S. desire for talks, the antiwar movements are to a considerable extent to blame for this. The attempts to brush them aside, slander them, or suppress them failed. It became necessary to make adjustments and to assume the semblance of "complaisance" and "flexibility." They began to speak of the U.S. agreement to travel "its half of the way" for the sake of reaching mutual understanding. Once again, this is just talk.

It is being claimed -- with rather less aplomb than before, it is true -- that the Pershings and cruise missiles that have been brought into combat service will prompt the USSR to resume talks and to accept the West's demands. The well-known demands that been put forward for a number of years are aimed at smashing military parity. There will be no others, we are warned. It is the old story -- the United States needs superiority and it will try to get its own way through talks or else without them.

Of course, the farce that is Washington's bid for "world leadership" can be called talks, but the Soviet Union is not a partner in such ventures. It is futile to attempt to drag us into "talks" designed to sanctify the U.S. "right" to encircle the USSR with a ring of strategic bases and to legalize the deployment of missiles that, according to the Pentagon's plan, are supposed to provide the American side with a lever for pressuring us in peacetime and to guarantee it "decisive superiority" in the event of war. We are not our own enemies.

The United States can fool those whom it wants to fool by claiming that the Pershings and cruise missiles make the American commitments to its allies more reliable. However, why exactly were ground-based rather than sea-based missiles required? How do the commitments to all the NATO members become stronger if the new types of weapons are being deployed only in three countries? Why not in one? And if we take the incredible possibility -- a member of the bloc that has no Pershings and no American soldiers at all is attacked -- what would happen then: Would the United States fulfill its commitments or not? If it would fulfill them then, why is it feigning hesitation in other instances? It is clumsily done -- they are not harnessing themselves to NATO but are harnessing the other members of the alliance to themselves, to their own concepts, which have now become even more aggressive.

The Geneva talks ended in failure because the American position precluded an accord. Washington was not seeking a solution of the problems. Neither a capital solution -- the complete liberation of Europe from tactical and medium-range nuclear weapons -- nor a partial solution: a sharp lowering of the level of confrontation, as the USSR proposed. It needed a pretext for the implementation of plans that had arisen long before Geneva, before NATO's "two-track decision," before the appearance of even the first Soviet SS-20 missile. And it got its own way -- talks essentially did not take place. They could not do so when the sides were talking at cross purposes. Washington is now declaring that there will be no new concessions. This is perplexing. What have new concessions got to do with it where there were no old ones and when, 4 years after the NATO decision on "arms upgrading," the White House has not managed to switch from demagoguery to constructive activities?

"We will get what we want through talks or without them" -- is that a course toward an accord? Is it possible to raise the question of CONTINUING [published in boldface] old talks when the deployment of American first-strike systems in the FRG, Britain, and Italy has injected a new quality into the situation? Remove the change that you yourselves have caused and return to the situation that existed in the fall of 1983 and it will be a different matter. But here too let it be an essential condition that the talks not remain mere talk. The United States will have to come down to earth from the imperial clouds and learn the elementary truth that international security is made up of connecting vessels. Nowadays it is impossible to add only to your own security or reduce only someone else's. Things can only be better for everyone or worse for everyone. There is no other way, and it is pointless to attempt to deceive fate.

Resumption Depends on U.S.

LD241527 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Much has been said in Washington these days about improving a dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union, primarily by resuming talks on nuclear weapons in Europe. But what about concrete deeds on the part of the United States Administration to promote productive dialogue and negotiations? Our observer Vladislav Kozyakov discusses this in his weekly comment:

Strictly speaking, the resumption of the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe completely depends on the position of the White House. It was not the Soviet Union but the United States which undermined the Geneva talks and made them impossible.

The history of the negotiations speaks for itself. The American side rejected all Soviet proposals based on equality and like security. The Soviet Union suggested to rid Europe of both medium-range and tactical nuclear weapons. The White House did not even attempt to discuss the proposal. Then the Soviet Union put forward another initiative: It was prepared to considerably reduce its missiles and to have even less missiles than the two NATO countries -- France and Britain -- have in Europe, provided there were no new American nuclear missiles on the continent. But this Soviet propsal was also rejected by the White House.

As for the latest American suggestions made in Geneva, they provided for unilateral disarmament of the Soviet Union and at the same time for the deployment of certain numbers of new American first-strike weapons in Europe. In other words, the United States Administration's attitude towards the talks was not serious.

And finally, last November it started deploying its missiles in Britain, Federal Germany, and Italy, which made the continuation of the Geneva talks impossible.

So the major question today is whether the United States' leaders are prepared to restore the situation that existed before the deployment of American cruise and Pershing II missiles on European soil.

The full issue of promoting the Soviet-American talks on nuclear weapons in Europe depends on the position of the White House because the Soviet Union is fully prepared to conduct a constructive dialogue with the United States. This has been once again confirmed by Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. But the talks, he stressed, should be honest and they should be based on equality and like security.

Unfortunately, there are no positive signs on the American side which could help ease international tensions. Official statements in favor of a dialogue and talks with the Soviet Union are being accompanied with a repetition of the well-known American position aimed at achieving military superiority over the USSR. The other day, one-sided American proposals on scrapping Soviet weapons in Europe and for adding more nuclear missiles to the NATO arsenal were once again confirmed in Washington.

Meanwhile, the deployment of new American Pershing II and cruise missiles is in full swing in Western Europe. This means that the administration's words in favor of a productive dialogue do not correspond with its deeds.

U.S., Soviet Positions Contrasted

LD241655 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Viktor Ilichev commentary]

[Text] Another wave of assurances has swept the capitals of NATO countries and its headquarters in Brussels. NATO's propagandists follow Washington's officials in persuading the public that the USSR is on the point of expressing its readiness to resume talks. Our commentary has been prepared by Viktor Ilichev.

What talks do they mean? The United States frustrated the Geneva talks with the Soviet Union at the end of last year when it began to deploy its new generation nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The subject in Geneva was limiting nuclear armaments in Europe. When the United States began to step them up, it torpedoed the talks and made them meaningless. In Geneva the Soviet Union advanced many concrete proposals to solve the problem of nuclear armaments on the continent. For example, it suggested fully ridding Europe of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical. Since NATO, and first of all the United States, did not want to take such a radical step the Soviet Union suggested another variant: not to deploy any new medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and to reduce the existing ones by two-thirds, leaving for the time being the same number of units of these weapons on the two sides, the USSR and the NATO countries. So the balance could be kept unchanged on a lower and consequently less dangerous level.

How did the American side reply to the Soviet proposals? Well, it started to position more nuclear missiles in Europe. In short, the first target the Pershing II's and Tomahawks hit at once were the Geneva talks. How can the NATO capitals hold an optimistic view of the talks' resumption? Has Washington changed its position? Nothing of the kind. It's going ahead with the siting of its first-strike nuclear missiles in Europe. Why does the former head of the American delegation at Geneva, Paul Nitze, claim that the United States is ready to return to the negotiating table within 24 hours? What can it return with? Paul Nitze has only confirmed that the United States has no fresh ideas on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe and this lack of fresh ideas means lack of a serious wish to negotiate. What the United States is eager to do in deed, and this seems to be its only wish, is to disclaim its responsibility for the stalled dialogue and for the notable worsening of the international situation.

And what is the Soviet Union's view of the talks' resumption? The Soviet leaders have made it clear that they are in favor of talks if these are honest and constructive and are based on the principle of equality and equal security of sides. The Soviet Union does not believe that the troubled situation that has obtained in Europe cannot be reversed. If the United States really wants to negotiate a scale-down of nuclear confrontation in Europe, it must return to the situation that existed before the start of new American nuclear missiles' deployment, that is before the United States began to scale this level up. A wish of this kind has yet to be displayed. It's a fact that no propaganda trick can conceal.

Conditions for Resumption

LD271223 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The White House has been pushing the idea that its tough foreign policy is beginning to bear fruit. It claims that the appearance of new American nuclear missiles in Europe may have a beneficial effect on the continuation of dialogue with the Soviet Union. President Reagan's assistant for European affairs, Richard Burt, [title as heard] declared recently that he had seen a new readiness on the part of the Soviet Union to return to the Geneva talks. Our commentary is by Lev Semeyko.

The Soviet approach to international affairs continues to center on the idea of peaceful coexistence and the adjustment of all disputes by means of substantive and constructive talks. It insists on honesty, the principle of equality and like security, consideration for each other's legitimate interests and no interference in each other's internal affairs. And, it must be emphasised, a readiness to hold such talks cannot be only one-sided. The general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko, reaffirmed this approach during his conversation with Vice-President George Bush. He said if the American side showed a practical readiness to adhere to these principles, there could be moves to rectify relations between the two countries.

But Washington only keeps repeating its delegation is prepared to resume talks on nuclear weapons in Europe at any time. Its actions indicate something quite different. It has made it clear it intends to go on deploying new American nuclear missiles in Europe. And no matter what it says, this shows the Reagan administration is trying to get the upper hand strategically so that it can negotiate from strength and be in a position to deliver a first strike at this country.

But threats are not going to force the Soviet Union to make concessions and pretend nothing has changed in the European and global situations. The Soviet Union will not allow the United States to upset the balance of strength. It will respond with adequate countermeasures to moves of this kind and to any United States move that threatens the security of this country or of its friends and allies. The late Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, underscored this, and General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko reaffirmed it in his recent conversations in Moscow with Western leaders, for one, with the West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl. The Soviet Union, he said, will continue to strengthen its defense potential, seeing this as essential for peace. The Soviet Union views the arms race as dangerous and pointless. It believes it would be wiser to preserve strategic parity and promote equal security by disarming. All its proposals that would rid Europe of nuclear weapons remain in force despite the changed situation. The Soviet Union is ready to discuss them once again if the United States is prepared to really observe the principle on which these proposals -- and, in fact, Soviet policy as a whole -- rest: that is, the principle of equality and like security.

When the Reagan administration tries to make the Soviet readiness for a constructive dialogue look like a response to the American military buildup, it is simply indulging in wishful thinking. At best, this is self-deception; at worst it is an attempt to mislead the world public.

Predeployment Status Needed

LD250805 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] We continue with commentary by Sergey Losev in which he considers the issue of the resumption of talks on nuclear arms in Europe. Here is what he writes:

The Geneva talks could not have been continued following the deployment on the territories of several West European nations of American first-strike Pershing II and cruise missiles. The U.S. Administration chose to adopt a policy of breaking up the parity of forces that had been achieved instead of displaying a desire to seek agreement and continue meaningful talks. Congressman Lawrence Coughlin, Republican, from Pennsylvania, demanded that the President call off the deployment of new American missiles in Europe. In his letter to the President he said that his voters and he believe that the situation is becoming increasingly dangerous and that it requires responsible efforts to reduce the nuclear war threat and ease world tensions.

Now what was the response to these sentiments from the White House and State Department? Initially the administration claimed that the deployment of American missiles would prompt the Soviet Union to return to the negotiating table because, under the circumstances, it would have no other choice. However, the deployment of Soviet missiles with an extended range on the territories of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, and the measures taken by the Soviet Union in response with regard to U.S. territory, expose the falsity of the claim that the Soviet Union had no other alternative. Washington's attempts to mislead the public have not ended at that, though. Ranking American officials now talk almost daily of what they call the administration's readiness to resume the Geneva talks without delay.

State Secretary Shultz has called, in a PBS program, for rolling up sleeves and being ready for talks and a search for reasonable agreements. But when it comes to considering the essence of the U.S. stand at the talks it turns out that the U.S. delegation has absolutely nothing in its portfolio except the old formulas designed to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union at all costs. In the view of American strategists this might bring a victory in a nuclear war.

America's leaders are inclined to talk about peace now that the election year has begun and of course this was only to be expected. But the pivotal aspects of the U.S. Administration's policy remain the same. According to American observers the President has merely altered his propaganda tactics. Administration officials have acknowledged that new proposals drawn up with a view to taking the arms control talks out of the present impasse are not expected to appear. This has in fact been indirectly confirmed by Mr Shultz in a television interview. The state secretary ruled out the possibility that the U.S. stand with regard to the Geneva talks would be changed and said that concessions to the Soviet Union would amount to mishandling the talks.

At his latest news conference President Reagan said that his administration would press for an approval of its new military budget of $313.4 billion for the 1985 fiscal year. The President said there was no need to cut the military budget. In these complicated circumstances the Soviet Union continues to propose mutually acceptable ways of resuming talks on nuclear arms in Europe. We repeat that if the United States and other NATO nations show a readiness to return to the situation that existed before the start of deployment in Europe of American medium-range nuclear missiles, the Soviet Union would also be prepared to do so.

The session of the Political Bureau of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee held this week underlined the consistency and continuity of the policy of our party and government aimed at implementing the principles of the peaceful coexistence of nations with different social and political systems. The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko, underlined that we do not need a military superiority and we do not intend to dictate to others. But we shall not allow the military parity that has been achieved to be broken.

PROPOSAL FOR NONUSE-OF-FORCE TREATY APPLAUDED

PM241230 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 7, Feb 84 pp 18-20

[Vladimir Kelin article: "A Timely Confidence-Building Measure. The Proposed Treaty on the Mutual Renunciation of the Use of Armed Force and on the Maintenance of Relations of Peace"]

[Text] In January last year the top leaders of the Warsaw Treaty countries put forward at the Prague meeting of the organization's Political Consultative Committee an initiative of major importance that could have a salutary effect on the European and world situation. They proposed the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual renunciation of the use of armed forces and on the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries. "In the present conditions the proposal is acquiring ever greater urgency," Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko stressed on January 18 this year at the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe at Stockholm.

That this is so is abundantly evident. First and foremost there is the continued growth of tension in international affairs as a result of the deliberate pursuance by the U.S. and NATO of a policy aimed at heightening confrontation.

By going ahead with the deployment in Western Europe of first-strike weapons, the U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles, they are impelling the world towards disaster. The grave anxiety understandably felt in the West European and other countries over this trend of developments naturally prompts a search for ways and means of returning interstate relations to the lines of detente, of normal co-operation.

Consequently it is logical that the proposal for the above-mentioned treaty should command wide attention the world over both at government level and in political and public quarters. Moreover, the interest evinced in it is growing, as can be seen from the deliberations of the Stockholm conference. Realistic minded politicians are fully aware of how greatly the international situation would be improved if agreement were reached on mutual renunciation of the use of armed force and on maintenance of peace between the states belonging to the two opposed alliances.

Special importance attaches, of course, to the response of the official quarters of the countries to whom the proposal has been addressed. Most of them have said that they will study the Warsaw Treaty proposal.

The April 1983 meeting of the Warsaw Treaty Foreign Ministers' Committee took note of this reaction on the part of NATO countries and expressed the hope that they would adopt a constructive position. In June last year a meeting of the party and government leaders of seven socialist countries stressed that they expected the NATO countries to agree to begin examination of the proposal. And the communique on the Warsaw Treaty Foreign Ministers' Committee meeting held in Sofia in October 1983 voiced the conviction that in the present complex international situation progress toward the conclusion of the treaty would be of exceptionally great importance.

The NATO countries thus had time and opportunity clearly to define their attitude to the proposal. But both the spring and winter sessions of the NATO Council last year ignored this important question. Certain quarters would no doubt like to relegate the matter to oblivion, but this is now not so easy to do. For too great are the hopes of Europe and the world over that tension will be scaled down.

In an effort somehow to justify their arms build-up and world-domination policy, the U.S. Administration and its supporters in NATO are playing up the false "Soviet threat" thesis, closing their eyes to the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty countries, their foreign policy documents and their practical actions aimed at promoting constructive co-operation with all countries irrespective of their social systems.

Not all politicians who take, so to say, a cautious view, of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries think alike. Some are convinced opponents of socialism. Others may be said to be honestly misguided. In an atmosphere marked by lack of understanding of the motives of the other side and deliberate whipping up of suspicion of the Warsaw Treaty countries, the conclusion of a treaty of the mutual renunciation of the use of force and on the maintenance of relations of peace could greatly help to stabilize the international situation. It would check the further erosion of interstate relations. The Soviet Union and its friends are ready to dispel the prejudices against their policy not by words but by practical action -- by signing a document setting down thoroughly considered and mutually acceptable commitments.

The socialist countries' proposal is perfectly logical. The Prague Political Declaration confirms that the Warsaw Treaty member states do not seek military superiority over the NATO members states nor have they any intention of attacking them or any other country, in Europe or elsewhere. The NATO member states also declare that they have no aggressive intentions. Consequently, as the Political Declaration points out, there should be nothing to prevent the states comprising the two alliances from adopting appropriate mutual commitments in international law.

The timeliness of the proposal for such a treaty is all the more obvious in the light of the fact that the U.S. Administration has torpedoed the Soviet-American talks on nuclear armaments in Europe and started deploying its new missiles in a number of West European countries. The adoption of this course of action by the U.S. could not but affect also the highly important talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic armaments. Now the governments of the U.S. and some other NATO countries are trying to evade responsibility for the breakdown of the talks on nuclear armaments in Europe by professing to be prepared to continue the dialogue and cooperation with the Soviet Union. But if they really are willing to take the road of detente, what is there to prevent the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual renunciation of the use of armed force and on the maintenance of relations of peace? Such a treaty, by helping to scale down the confrontation and strengthening confidence, could give a new impulse also to talks on the termination of the arms race and on disarmament. It would signify recognition by all the signatories that this is the most important area of international cooperation. Such recognition in itself would be of no little significance.

Now let us see whether there are any real impediments to the conclusion of such a treaty. How weighty are the arguments advanced by those who question its value?

Most of the questions Western quarters address to the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty countries boil down to this: are not the provisions of the projected treaty covered by other documents and commitments, multilateral included, which make its conclusion superfluous? And, with reference to the U.N. Charter, which obligates the world organization's members to refrain from the use of force; should a group of states assume an additional commitment under a separate treaty on mutual renunciation of the use of armed force?

In advancing their proposal, the Warsaw Treaty countries naturally do not question the validity of the U.N. Charter as a whole or of any of its provisions. All the more so since they are among those U.N. members who most consistently abide by the Charter and its provisions. However, a realistic appraisal of the world situation shows that the United Nations organization does not yet play an effective enough part in safeguarding international security. Consequently, additional efforts are required of all who are interested in improving the political climate in the world.

The proposal of the Warsaw Treaty states draws the attention of the countries to the existing danger and urges them to take tangible political and legal action to create a more favourable atmosphere in relations between states, primarily between states belonging to the basic opposed alignments.

The Warsaw Treaty initiatives notably concretize the U.N. Charter commitment on the non-use of force as applied specifically to armed force. When the Charter was signed there was no NATO and no Warsaw Treaty organization, which now wield enormous military power, especially in the sphere of nuclear armaments. In other words, the situation that exists now did not exist then. Hence the proposed treaty would rule out first use by either side of both nuclear and conventional armaments against each other. Far from detracting from the U.N. Charter obligations, it would only reinforce them.

Further, the U.N. Charter was no obstacle to the inclusion of the commitment not to use force in the bilateral treaties between the U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the German Democratic Republic on the one hand, and West Germany, on the other. The inclusion of this provision in bilateral treaties that are key components of the edifice of European peace in no way minimized the significance of the U.N. Charter commitment to refrain from the use of force. Nor would this happen is a multilateral treaty on the renunciation of the use of armed force and on the maintenance of peaceful relations were included.

The Warsaw Treaty countries' proposal is in no way inconsonant with the Helsinki Final Act, and certainly is not aimed at weakening it. On the contrary, the socialist countries emphasize that its realization would be fully in line with the decision taken by the participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to give effect to the commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against one another. Thus the proposed treaty would be a step forward in the affirmation of the principle of non-use of force. It would give this principle contractual force in international law.

It would also be a further continuation of the Final Act thesis that peace and security in Europe are closely interlinked with peace and security the world over, and fully in line with the determination voiced by the signatories to that document to base their relations with all other countries on the principles of the Final Act.

Thus the Warsaw Treaty countries' proposal is consistent with and follows from the U.N. Charter and the Final Act signed in Helsinki.

It has a logical relation also to the World Treaty on the non-use of force which the Soviet Union first proposed in 1976 and confirmed in 1978, and the draft of which is now before the United Nations. The latest initiative lacks the globalism of the world treaty and is focussed on the problems that arise primarily as a result of the growing tension between the NATO and the Warsaw Treaty countries. Hence there are every grounds for examining it in the context of Article 52 of the U.N. Charter which envisages regional arrangements relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, provided that such arrangements are consisted with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Some in the West contend that it is not essential to give treaty form to commitments not to use armed force. It is enough, it is alleged, for the Warsaw Treaty countries to issue a unilateral declaration similar in form to those contained in NATO documents, such as the assurance given by the NATO Council in December 1983 that NATO weapons will never be used except in reply to attack.

This approach cannot be said to be justified. For statements are indefinite things. At best they are declarations of intent which are not binding in international law. A treaty, on the other hand, sets forth clearly defined and equal legal obligations which are binding on all signatories, moreover on a reciprocal basis. If the NATO countries really mean what they say, what is there to prevent them from signing a treaty on mutual renunciation of the use of armed force?

It is in place to note that some NATO countries interpret their declarations very loosely, to say the least. For instance, no one can say that the United States, the main inspirer of NATO, used armed force in Grenada to repulse an attack. Yet this act of aggression was given one or another measure of moral and political support by the other NATO countries.

The treaty proposed by the socialist countries differs from earlier attempts to outlaw war as a means of settling international disputes also in another respect: it is not conceived as the culmination of effort to guarantee peace. The Warsaw Treaty states see it in an important instrument for the attainment of this objective.

Another group of questions addressed to the socialist countries relates to the content of the treaty, its various provisions.

This is of course not the first time that the idea of renunciation of the use of force in interstate relations has been advanced. But never before has it been elaborated so fundamentally as the Warsaw Treaty states have now done.

In their Political Declaration they point out that the core of the treaty could be the mutual commitment of the member states of both alliances not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against each other and therefore not to be the first to use against each other any military force at all. This obligation would extend to the territories of all signatories to the treaty as well as to their military and civilian personnel, naval and merchant ships, aircraft and space vehicles, as well as installations of all kinds regardless of where they may be located.

Needless to say, the treaty would not restrict the signatories' inalienable right to individual and collective self-defence in conformity with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

At the same time it would safeguard the members of each of the alliances against their allied ties being used for purposes of aggression against members of the other alliance, and hence free them of fears that these ties could present a threat to their security.

Although their proposal is formulated in the most concrete possible terms, the Warsaw Treaty countries approach it flexibly. While working to remove the threat of nuclear war between the two groups of countries possessing the greatest military potential in the world and to raise barriers to the further destabilization of relations between these groups, they believe that also all other interested European countries could take part in the elaboration of the treaty and sign it. In effect the object is to create an international political and legal climate that would prepare the found for the dissolution of both NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, which the socialist countries have long advocated.

At times it is asked: how would the observance of the treaty be verified?

The question is legitimate and by no means simple. There are no technical means of supervision of the fulfillment of political and legal obligations, as there are of the fulfilment of commitments to limit, reduce or dismantle armaments, the material means of warfare. However, the problem could easily be solved by interstate co-operation through periodical joint examination of the situation in the area covered by the treaty, joint definition of further generally acceptable measures to strengthen peace and security, and other joint undertakings of this order in keeping with generally recognized international practice. The specific forms of this co-operation will of course have to be agreed upon.

Detailed and multifaceted though the socialist countries' proposal is, the Prague Political Declaration and subsequent Warsaw Treaty documents only outline the contours of a possible treaty. The various aspects of the future document could be worked out in final form in the course of bilateral and multilateral exchanges of views. The Warsaw Treaty countries are ready to join in this.

Speaking in Stockholm, Andrey Gromyko drew the attention of the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the all-European process to the proposal, stressing that the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual renunciation of the use of armed force and on the maintenance of relations of peace would be a "highly important confidence-building measure." It would be only natural, he said, for countries to assume these obligations, irrespective of whether they are members of military alliances, neutral, or non-aligned.

The political line consistently pursued by the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community and the fact that it is consonant with the aspirations of most countries of the world, of all who display a sense of responsibility, open promising prospects as regards the strengthening of international security.

This broad identity of the interests of many countries, governments, and individual political leaders of the most diverse orientations was once again confirmed by the recent U.N. General Assembly session. The overwhelming majority of the states represented at it, with the exception of the United States and some of its allies, called for the solution of the key problems of security: prevention of nuclear war, termination of the arms race without delay, and transition to disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament.

An unbiased analysis of the arguments put forward in the West in connection with the proposal formulated in the Prague Political Declaration of 1983 shows that there is no real reason why a treaty on the renunciation of the use of armed force and on the maintenance of relations of peace should not be concluded. And certainly no reason why joint work on it should not be begun. All that is needed is the political will.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION DISCUSSED WITH CANADA

LD241635 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 24 TASS -- Soviet-Canadian consultations on questions of enhancing the international regime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons have taken place here. They dealt with preparations for the 1985 conference to examine the operation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and ways of raising the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards system and increasing control over international exchanges in the nuclear field.

The sides agreed to continue consultations on questions related to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

'DRUZHBA-84' EXERCISES COMMENCING IN POLAND

LD272327 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] As the Polish PAP agency has reported, according to a plan of combat readiness, exercises under the code-name "Druzhba-84" will be held in the western and northwestern part of the Polish People's Republic at the end of February and beginning of March this year.

Taking part will be units and subunits of the Polish Army, the Soviet Army, and the National People's Army of the GDR. Allied troops have already arrived in Poland. Planning organization work has commenced at headquarters.

Representatives of the three fraternal armies are meeting war veterans, labor collectives of enterprises, and young people.

DISARMAMENT, NICARAGUA, IRAN-IRAQ WAR VIEWED

PM271601 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Yuriy Kharlanov "International Review"]

[Text] Upholding Peace

People throughout the world are now studying with special attention and analyzing the USSR's foreign policy and its approach to problems of war and peace. The extraordinary CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum confirmed the immutability and continuity of the policy of peace, whose modern features were determined by the last CPSU congresses.

As a great socialist power, the USSR is fully conscious of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace, Comrde K.U. Chernenko general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out at the plenum. We are open to peaceful mutually advantageous cooperation with states of all continents. We advocate the peaceful resolution of all disputed international problems by means of serious, equitable, constructive talks.

To reach genuine accords in keeping with the peoples' interests, the United States and its allies, who bear responsibility for exacerbating the international situation, must display readiness for cooperation in favor of peace -- not with hypocritical words but with action. But for the time being, as the facts show, Washington puts its trust only in brute force and is continuing its attempts to achieve what is unattainable -- military superiority over the Soviet Union.

In relations between states the extent of the partner's reliability is one of the chief conditions for their successful development. This is why the question of the United States' attitude toward the commitments which it assumes in accordance with international treaties and agreements is so important in the present international situation. The history of recent years, however, clearly shows what lack of respect Washington has for its own signature on very important documents such as, for example, the SALT II Treaty, the treaties on underground nuclear weapon tests and on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and many others.

There is nothing secret that does not become plain. The world recalled this truth last week, when, as the result of an accident at a test site in the state of Nevada, it became still clearer that a nuclear device, whose yield is to exceed the limit set in the treaty, was being tested there. And what is the worth of the assurances of the U.S. President and his advisers about their "constructive" approach to the problem of limiting strategic arms, when American military monopolies are receiving appropriations on an ever more gigantic scale for the production of a "new generation" of nuclear missile weapons?

The United States continues to refuse to announce its rejection of the first use of nuclear weapons and the use of armed force at all in relations among states. At the session of the Special Committee on Increasing the Effectiveness of the Principle of the Nonuse of Force in International Relations, which opened at the UN Headquarters a few days ago, Washington's representative took an overtly obstructionist stand. The United States together with its allies in military blocs is trying its best to wreck the debate on this urgent problem and prevent discussion of the draft of a corresponding treaty which the Soviet Union submitted to the United Nations.

Even though the whole world has repeatedly seen for itself during recent decades that the American "strong-arm policy" is not only inhuman but most frequently does not produce the results Washington desires (a recent example of this is the events in Lebanon), the White House continues to be infatuated with force and force alone.

It is planning to achieve military superiority everywhere: on land, at sea, in the air, and in space. It is seeking to drag all its allies into the unrestrained arms race and to induce them also to violate international treaties and agreements.

Britain's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH tells how a group of staffers of the Pentagon, the State Department, and the CIA came to West Europe and strenuously worked on top government officials and military men, particularly in Britain, trying to persuade them to agree to add to NATO's arsenal the "space weapons" systems being designed in the United States. Their creation would seriously undermine the Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems, which is of unlimited duration.

Last week's events provided further confirmation that the U.S. policy that has been pursued in recent years is incompatible with the universally recognized norms of international law. It runs counter to Soviet-American accords which state that neither side will seek military superiority and that in relations between them our countries will be guided by the principle of equality and identical security. Many people in the United States itself are beginning to understand this truth.

"The U.S. Administration," THE TRIBUNE, a newspaper published in San Francisco, writes with alarm, "has abandoned practically everything that had been achieved previously in the arms control sphere. For a long time Washington ignored the demand from the country's public to begin talks with the Soviet Union on limiting nuclear arms in Europe and on limiting and reducing strategic arms. And, having embarked on them, the White House took a stand which practically prevented serious discussion of these problems."

"In his public statements the President has repeatedly maintained that the program for building up America's nuclear missile potential serves the cause of strengthening peace. But in reality," a statement by the Washington Peace Center points out, "the new missiles will merely make the unleashing of a nuclear war more likely."

The world's peoples reject the militarists' crazy plans and demand a return to the policy of detente and of limiting and reducing arms, primarily nuclear missile arms.

Nicaragua's Confidence

On 21 February, at a rally in Managua dedicated to the memory of General Sandino, Nicaragua's national hero, who was killed 50 years ago on the orders of the American henchman Somoza, it was announced that general elections will be held in the country 4 November this year. A president and vice president of the republic and deputies of the National Assembly will be elected. According to the new electoral law, the right to nominate candidates and participate in the election campaign has been granted to all legal political parties, including opposition parties.

The decision of the leaders of the Sandinist revolution has upset the new anti-Nicaraguan campaign which has been launched in the United States and in which U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz has not balked at participating. The chief thesis of this propaganda sally was the assertion that the Sandinists are so intimidated by the widening of military provocations against the republic and by the increasingly frequent infiltration of armed Somoza gangs onto its territory that they had decided to postpone the elections altogether. That was a lie!

Nicaragua's leaders have shown that they believe in the people's masses and are full of determination to continue the process of forming a revolutionary democracy which was begun after Somoza's overthrow. At the same time Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction has begun a new stage of the agrarian reform and the handover of land to those who work it -- which attests to its desire to deepen socioeconomic transformations.

At the same time Washington is continuing its policy of escalating aggression against Nicaragua, as evidenced by all recent events. Bombing strikes against ports and oil storage tanks in Nicaragua by "unidentified" aircraft, the concentration of a thousands-strong American expeditionary corps on the republic's borders, the infiltration onto the country's territory of gangs with weapons stamped "Made in the USA" -- the hand of the CIA and the Pentagon, which is familiar to us from Vietnam, Lebanon, and Grenada, can be recognized in all this.

However, if we familiarize ourselves with official Washington's numerous statements with regard to the events in Central America, the impression might be gained that the U.S. authorities do not even have an inkling of where the pirate aircraft come from, of who puts weapons into the hands of the bandits who have killed more than 2,500 of Nicaragua's citizens, or of who pays for the ramified program of provocation and subversion. Speaking in Congress, U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger, for example, tauntingly declared that the runways, radar stations, barracks, and other military projects constructed in Honduras in recent months are "earmarked only for holding exercises." Of course, no sober-minded person would accept these assertions.

Washington is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua. The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, for example, reports that CIA Director W. Casey recently demanded new appropriations from the U.S. Congress to expend these operations. This year he will need $20-50 million, and next year -- approximetely $50 million. And this is just for secret work, in addition to the funds which are spent directly by the Pentagon. Newspapers point out that the CIA and the Pentagon are planning new armed provocations against Nicaragua, are continuing to form gangs of armed mercenaries and saboteurs, and are training Honduran soldiers, preparing them for aggression against the neighboring country. Coming out against this policy, the American magazine THE PROGRESSIVE writes: "Our tax dollars maintain 10,000 'contras' who are killing teachers and doctors and burning villages, crops, and fuel stocks." The hotheads in Washington are secretly dreaming of repeating the Grenada adventure. But they are not capable of everything. The people of Nicaragua are standing guard over the motherland and the revolution. Many Latin American states come out in defense of Nicaragua and propose ways to settle the situation in Central America by means of talks.

The leaders of Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front, who believe in the strength of a nation which has freed itself from tyranny, call for the enhancement of revolutionary vigilance and the cohesion of all the people's forces in order to wreck the American imperialists' sinister plans.

"Forgotten War"

"The war the world has forgotten" -- This was how London's THE TIMES headed one of its articles on the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq. The words "forgotten war" also appear in the pages of other Western newspapers when they tell of the battles which are now into their fourth year.

This week the Iran-Iraq war flared up with new force. Iranian troops launched a major offensive under the name Val-Fajr VI (the sixth stage of operation "Dawn"), which is spearheaded against the major Iraqi port of Basra. The Iranian troops' success is reported from Tehran. According to reports from Baghdad, the Iraqis have managed to prevent a serious enemy advance. Both the sides involved in the conflict are incurring large losses of manpower and hardware. Civilians are dying as a result of air raids and artillery fire.

Iran and Iraq are developing states with economies that are still not strong, and they are faced with difficult problems the social and cultural spheres. The war is taking tremendous manpower and physical resources from both countries. Suffice it to that each side now has around 500,000 men concentrated on or near the front. According to information in the Western press, the conflict has already carried off over 200,000 men.

There is no doubt that the peoples of both countries have an interest in ending the war and moving into peaceful channels.

The UN Security Council, which has addressed this problem on more than one occasion, adopted a resolution in October last year calling on Iran and Iraq to cease all military operations. At the time, as is known, Baghdad welcomed this resolution while Tehran rejected it. A week ago, UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar proposed sending his own mission to the two countries with a view to gathering the latest information on damage in civilian areas and elucidating the stance of the two governments on questions relating to the conflict. The Governments of Iran and Iraq replied that they support the efforts of the UN general secretary. However, on the insistence of the Iranian side, which declared that at present it "cannot hold any political consultations with its members," the mission has been deferred for some time. Other international organizations and a number of world states have offered their services as mediators to begin talks with a view to ending the conflict.

However, there are circles in the world that would like to exploit the senseless bloody war in order to step up their own political control and military presence in such a restless region of the globe. This is primarily the United States, which is keeping Iran, Iraq, and other states of the Persian Gulf region in the sights of its fleet stationed in the Indian Ocean.

Back during Carter's Presidency, Washington said that the United States has the "right" to armed interference in this region if a "threat" emerges to seaways used by the oil tankers. Recently, White House Deputy Press Secretary L. Speakes "confirmed President Reagan's determination to keep open the Strait of Hormuz" leading from the Gulf to the Indian Ocean. The West German newspaper GENERAL ANZEIGER writes that "Washington has informed its allies in the Persian Gulf region that it is ready to use armed force to ensure the safety of oil shipments in this region."

As the press reports, a U.S. naval assault group is now patrolling in direct proximity to the Persian Gulf, where the U.S. Navy has a permanent base at a port in the island state of Bahrain. This armada is made up of dozens of vessels, including the aircraft carrier Midway and the assault landing vessel La Salle for Marines. Britain has also dispatched its warships to the Persian Gulf region.

Washington is trying to involve a number of Arab states neighboring Iran and Iraq, in its adventurist intrigues. There is no doubt that the U.S. military's dangerous maneuvers on the pretext of the Iranian-Iraqi conflict are only capable of heating up the atmosphere in this explosive region of the world even further. The experience of the Lebanese events showed once again what U.S. "peacemaking" by military means leads to. As for the "forgotten war," reason and the people's interests have long been calling for an end to this senseless and tragic bloodshed so that it may indeed become something of the forgotten past.

NATO MILITARY EXERCISES BEGIN IN NORWAY

LD280903 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Oslo February 28 TASS -- NATO's military exercises begin in the north of Norway today. These are the biggest exercises ever held in this country. The month-long exercises will involve more than 40,000 servicemen, 150 warships, 300 aircraft and helicopters from nine NATO member-states, including the USA, Canada, Britain, and the FRG. The exercises will culminate in the landing of a large force of U.S., British and Dutch marines on the Norwegian coast.

HANDLING OF THREATS AGAINST USSR MISSIONS HIT

U.S. 'Connivance' in Attacks

LD250936 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Now here's Vladimir Pozner and his daily talk:

[Pozner] Thank you and hello everyone. Question: When is a terrorist a freedom fighter? Answer: It depends.

On Thursday the residential compound of the Soviet mission to the United States in New York was bombed. Three rapid-fire explosions rocked the grounds, setting one car on fire. Thankfully, there were no injuries. Minutes after the three bombs were hurled over a fence into a parking lot in the rear of the building a group calling itself the Jewish Direct Action [JDA] phoned UPI to claim responsibility for the act. Somewhat later the JDA denied responsibility in what anyone would have to call a left-handed manner.

At a press conference about half a block from the Soviet mission (James Vancier), accompanied by about 30 members of the JDA, made the following statement: I don't know who did it but I am sympathetic to them. He then continued, saying he did not view the bombing as an act of terrorism but rather as the work of Jewish freedom fighters who may have been inspired by the JDA's weekly radio broadcast.

Mr (Vancier) stated: We are a nonviolent law-abiding organization.

It is an engaging problem to ponder over: A nonviolent organization whose broadcasts inspire people to throw bombs. But let that pass. The act was one of many -- from threats to actual vandalization, rifle fire into bedroom windows, and bombings. In its protest the Soviet Union stated that the U.S. Government had repeatedly been asked for more security in the face of continued threats, but the request had been ignored. Such an attitude, stated the note, in practical terms amounts to outright connivance in activities of this nature against Soviet personnel and property in the United States.

Now it is true that a U.S. spokesman, John Hughes, strongly condemned the act, calling it a disgraceful, cowardly attack and an act of terrorism. We have nothing but contempt for those who would attack the accredited representatives of a foreign government on our soil, said he. But, on the other hand, an American official was quoted as saying: Obviously, we reject any suggestion that we connived or are involved. The Soviet Gover ment's note was quite clear on the matter. It said that the persistent ignoring of Soviet requests for increased security was tantamount to connivance. That makes sense.

Let's take it to a much lower level. Imagine your child is consistently threatened and gets beat up by a gang of hoodlums. You ask the people for protection. They ignore your request. They are then in fact and practically giving the hoodlums the green light. If, on the contrary, the police were to step in, the hoods would run for cover. That is elementary and it applies to our case to an even greater degree.

The contempt and condemnation expressed by State Department spokesmen is a joke for fascists from the JDA, Jewish Defense League, and a whole lot of other so-called action groups that are allowed to flourish in the United States. This is called freedom -- freedom to terrorize others. How about some action in addition to the words?

Imagine, if you will, the founding of, say, the GAG or the FFC, those being the Grenada Action Group and the Freedom for Chile association. And imagine their bombing the U.S. mission to the United Nations Organization and the Chilean mission. Not even bombing, just threatening. How long would it take before they were bundled into paddywagons and thrown into the clink? If the U.S. Government really wanted to protect the Soviet mission, don't you think it could do just a little better than until now?

So when is a terrorist a freedom fighter? It depends.

Notifications 'Ignored'

LD241206 Moscow TASS in English 1146 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Here are two reports which almost simultaneously appeared on the teleprinter circuits of TASS. The first one has it that, according to the Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN, "secret consultations" on matters aimed at fighting terrorism were held in Washington a month ago on the U.S. initiative. During the consultations representatives of a number of Western countries discussed measures on advance warning of terrorist actions against diplomatic missions and methods to guard the embassies. The other says that on the night of February 22 to 23 a bandit terrorist act was staged in New York against the residential complex at the USSR mission at the United Nations. It was only by chance that the terrorist act did not result in loss of life.

One needs only to compare these facts in order to see for onself once again that Washington's words glaringly contradict its deeds. The U.S. Administration zealously talks of its intention "to fight terrorism" and even undertakes to teach others how this fight should be conducted -- but in actual fact it continues to show indulgence towards terrorists and, moreover, connives at their criminal activity. Really, the USSR Embassy repeatedly notified the U.S. State Department of threats, which it received, to blow up Soviet institutions, and demanded that effective measures be taken to ensure the security of the institutions. Prior to the bandit action, an unidentified person phoned the Secret Service which is in charge of the guarding of Soviet institutions and said that one of Russian cars would be blown up soon. And what? Both the notifications by the USSR Embassy and other signs of a provocation being prepared were fully ignored by the U.S authorities.

That act of banditry against the housing compound of the Soviet Union's permanent mission to the United Nations is just a link in the chain of similar criminal actions, carried out in the United States by bandits and terrorists against foreign missions and their staff, first and foremost against the missions of socialist countries. As everyone knows, numerous anti-Soviet, nationalist and fascist centres have flourished and are acting in the United States. In fact, they are preparing and carrying out their acts of terrorism and other outrages in the open. The addresses of those provocative bandit centres, including the Zionist "Jewish Direction Action League," which has claimed responsibility for the latest act of terrorism, are well-known to the U.S. authorities. What then explains the "tolerance" shown by Washington for the terrorists?

The need to ensure the safety of foreign diplomats and their families in New York has been the subject of special discussions at the meetings of the U.N. Committee for Liaison With the Host Country on more than one occasion.

Leafing through the records of those meetings, one can easily see that representatives of many states complained of provocations against foreign missions. It was pointed out that the impotence -- or rather unwillingness -- of the U.S. authorities to secure the safety of foreign missions and their staff in New York was all the more outrageous since the United States as the host country of the United Nations assumed under the Charter of that world organization the commitment to ensure in full the safety of foreign diplomatic missions and their personnel. Acts of terrorism, however, continue.

One has every right to ask: How far stretches the "tolerance" of those U.S. official circles which urge everyone so insistently to "combat terrorism"?

How long will all sorts of reactionary elements and fascist-minded thugs, who do not shrink from any methods and means, to the point of attacking foreign missions to the United Nations, continue their acts of provocation and terrorism, which constitute a gross violation of the commonly recognized diplomatic norms and the clauses of the U.N. Charter?

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. BUSINESSMAN

LD271841 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Nikolay Patolichev received today co-chairman of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, president of the Board of the U.S. Armco Corporation William Verity.

They discussed the status and the outlook for the Soviet-American trade and economic relations, and examined the chief aspects of the council's activities.

The conversation was attended by the council's co-chairman on the Soviet side, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister of the USSR Vladimir Sushkov.

REAGAN TALK SHOWS CONTINUED 'TWO CHINAS' STANCE

PM271348 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Still 'Two Chinas'?"]

[Text] Washington February 25 -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan has spoken at a specially arranged meeting with Americans of Asian descent -- a meeting linked here to his election-year considerations. In particular, with an eye to the large pro-Taiwan lobby in the United States, the President in his speech prominently highlighted the U.S. relationship with Taiwan. In actual fact he spoke out again in favor of continuing the American policy of "two Chinas." Reagan said that his administration intended to honor all commitments toward Taiwan and to support its "requirements and needs." Reagan declared again that the United States also was now developing close economic and cultural links with Taiwan. The policy of developing relations with the PRC, the President said further, did not mean the "administration's renunciation of Taipei."

It is emphasized locally that Reagan in his speech equated U.S. relations with Taiwan and China, calling them "old and new friends."

BRZEZINSKI VISITS PRC, MEETS WITH DENG XIAOPING

PM241301 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Arrival in the PRC"]

[Text] Beijing, 23 Feb -- XINHUA reports the arrival in the PRC of Z. Brzezinski, senior adviser to the U.S. Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies. According to the agency's report, Z. Brzezinski had a meeting with Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission.

PRC COMMEMORATES SOVIET ARMY, NAVY DAY

PRC Provinces

LD271443 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] It is reported from Beijing that on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, representatives of the local organs of power and branches of the Chinese-Soviet Friendship Society in the provinces of Zhejiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Hubei, and the autnomous region of Inner Mongolia laid wreaths at monuments to Soviet servicemen who fell in battles against Japanese militarism for the liberation of China at Harbin, Changchun, (Shenyang), Dalian, Wuhan and other towns. Officials of the USSR Embassy in the PRC laid wreaths at the monuments to Soviet servicemen.

PRC Friendship Group

LD271755 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In several cities and provinces of China, wreaths have been laid at monuments to Soviet soldiers who died in battles against Japanese militarists for liberating China.

They were laid on the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy by representatives of the local governing bodies and branches of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Society.

AMITY SOCIETY MARKS CHINESE WRITER'S BIRTHDAY

OW280233 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Famous Chinese writer Ba Jin's works are well-known in the Soviet Union. This was the remark made at a soiree to celebrate Ba Jin's 80th birthday.

The soiree was held at the House of Friendship in Moscow on 27 February under the sponsorship of the USSR Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. Some Soviet sinologists, activitists of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society and personalities from various circles in Moscow attended the soiree. Also present at the soiree were Gao Shikun and Zhang Dake, councellors of the Chinese Embassy, and other staff members of the Chinese Embassy. L. Nikolskaya, a Soviet sinologist, delivered a report on Ba Jin's writings.

CHINA DENIES ILLEGAL HIGH-TECH IMPORTS FROM U.S.

LD272302 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1945 GMT 27 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver -- announcer-read report]

[Text] In connection with the arrest in the United States of a group of people accused of illegally exporting military technology to China, a press department spokesman from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that such accusations are completely unfounded and devoid of any substance. The Chinese press is highlighting the fact that the arrests in the United States took place soon after the visit to this country by PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang. As is known, during this visit Beijing was once again promised wide access to the American technology market.

JAPAN SET TO SUBMIT TO U.S. BASES PLANS

LD242027 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tokyo February 14 TASS -- As soon as Washington declares about its plans to build up U.S. military might in the Pacific Ocean region, the aggressive designs of the overseas partners are readily supported in the Japanese capital. This was demonstrated for yet another time by Shintaro Abe, Japanese foreign minister, when he spoke at the Budget Commission of the Upper Chamber of the Japanese Parliament. According to him, the deployment of new U.S. carrier forces in the Far East not only does not create a threat to peace in the region but, as it transpires "consolidated security and stability" in that part of the world. The KYODO TSUSHIN news agency points out that the statement by Abe is evidence of the Japanese Government's intention to give a positive answer to the Pentagon's demand to provide bases for U.S. strike aircraft carriers in Japanese ports.

This course of the Nakasone cabinet, local observers believe, cannot but play better into the hand of the Washington administration which is pushing Tokyo to renounce the three non-nuclear principles which had been officially proclaimed by it, namely, not to have and not to produce nuclear weapons. Already now U.S. strike submarines carrying nuclear torpedoes make up to 30 calls at Japanese ports.

MONGOLIA'S TSEDENBAL LEAVES MOSCOW AFTER VACATION

PM271400 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Yu. Tsedenbal's Departure for Home"]

[Text] Yu. Tsedenbal, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the People's Great Hural Presidium, who had been on vacation in the Soviet Union at the CPSU Central Committee's invitation, left Moscow for home 25 February.

USSR, MONGOLIAN CITIZENSHIP CONVENTION RATIFIED

PM241304 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Instruments of Ratification"]

[Text] In Ulaanbaatar on 21 February S.P. Pavlov, USSR ambassador to Mongolia, and D. Yondon, Mongolian first deputy foreign minister, exchanged instruments of ratification for the convention between the USSR Government and the Mongolian Government to prevent instances of dual citizenship arising, which was signed in Moscow 11 September 1975.

U.S. 'IMPEDING' PAKISTAN-DRA RAPPROCHEMENT

LD272246 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Afghan leader, Babrak Karmal, said recently in Kabul that one of the essential goals of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in foreign policy was the establishment of (?peace), friendship, and good-neighborly relations with Pakistan and Iran. The Afghan Government has been trying to reach these goals via a number of constructive initiatives to establish peaceful relations with these countries. Commentary has been contributed by our analyst Ivan Lavrov and this is what he writes:

In its effort for a political settlement the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has shown goodwill, the necessary flexibility and a realistic attitude, which has been appreciated by people all over the world. In view of this attitude, the United Nations secretary general arranged through his representative, Diego Cardovez, three rounds of indirect negotiations between delegations of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva. The delegations at the talks said these meetings had produced certain positive results, but a political settlement was not reached and the situation around Afghanistan remains tense.

Tensions in South West Asia are whipped up by the United States Administration (?that) plans to go in with its undeclared war against Afghanistan until the last Afghan, as one official in Washington has put it. The United States increased its military aid to the mercenaries this year to $125 million to keep the undeclared war going. And there have been no lack of provocative calls from Washington either; the numerous American visitors of Pakistan invariably speak before the Afghan mercenaries, inciting them with hostile statements against Afghanistan.

These unlawful activities don't, however, meet any protest from the military authorities in Pakistan. [Word indistinct] Islamabad has had to pay for the aid that Washington once provided it with. This (?pay) means a growing foreign debt and huge military spending. It also includes Pakistan's role as an accomplice in the United States' military ventures in the region and part of this is the use of Pakistani territory for the undeclared war against Afghanistan. In this situation the Pakistani military regime is bound hand-and-foot and is unable to build independently its relations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. One can safely say these relations are now outlined in Washington, not in Islamabad. And here's eloquent proof.

Following a round of the talks in Geneva last summer, the Pakistani foreign minister, Yaqub Khan, spoke highly of that round's results. He said the talks had opened a real opportunity for a comprehensive political settlement of the basic issues in Afghan-Pakistani relations. But the American state secretary, George Shultz, soon came to Pakistan to crudely (?snub) its military leaders. Shultz gave no sign of approval concerning the progress made at the Geneva talks. Moreover, he let it be known that Washington would not put up with the settlement plan developed in Geneva. After that visit, the Pakistani leadership became even more inflexible and the terms it now puts forward, obviously outlined by Washington, can only be construed as artificial obstacles on the way to a political settlement. And here are the terms:

Pakistan demands withdrawal of the limited contingent of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan as a prerequisite. But this question can and should be decided without any external interference by the sovereign Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan that had invited the troops in 1979 in view of the danger of an even bigger invasion of the country by mercenary bands from abroad. [sentence as heard] The Afghan Government has said it's ready to solve the issue of withdrawal of these troops if it gets reliable international guarantees of noninterference in its internal affairs. But Washington and Islamabad refuse to provide such guarantees.

The artificial obstacles impeding a political settlement concerning Afghanistan are causing special concern because of the continuing tensions in the region and fraught with the danger of a direct military involvement by the United States, the way it was in Grenada and Lebanon. There is no more time to be wasted; more peace efforts should be made.

KABUL NEWS CONFERENCE 'EXPOSES' U.S. ROLE

LD272148 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul February 27 TASS -- A press conference was held here today for local and foreign newsmen in connection with new facts confirming subversive activity waged by U.S. imperialism against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Two letters captured recently when one of the gangs of counter-revolutionaries was destroyed, were read out to newsmen. The first letter, from the headquarters of the counter-revolutionary "Jami'at-e Eslami Afghanistan" faction based in Peshawar (Pakistan), is addressed to bandits from that organization waging subversion in the territory of Democratic Afghanistan.

Besides listing weapons and ammunition dispatched to Afghanistan from abroad, the letter contains a direct indication that the U.S. "advisers" directing the activities of the counter-revolutionaries, "have drawn up a list of questions on the use by the Russians against mujahiddin ("fighters for religious belief") in Afghanistan of toxic chemicals and the recommended answers to them." "The toxic chemicals," the document further says, "are prepared here for use in order to convince the world public opinion that the Russians are using these chemicals in Afghanistan."

The reply letter confirms the receipt of arms and ammunition, "as well as of the questionnaire mentioned with the desired answers to the questions contained in the questionnaire."

Speaking at the press conference, the spokesman for the BAKHTAR new agency said that the documents made public expose the futile attempts by the CIA to prove the use of toxic agents against Afghan counter-revolutionaries. The documents provide convincing testimony that the actual sponsor of the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is U.S. imperialism which strives to aggravate the situation around Afghanistan and to heighten international tensions.

It was pointed out that the counter-revolutionary activities are directed and coordinated from the centre in Peshawar. CIA agents and U.S. "diplomats" are taking an active part in that activity. Worked out by the U.S. special services, the questionnaire mentioned in the letters made public at the press conference both sets of subversion before the bandits and also looks like a real spy instruction.

The inventions of the imperialist propaganda alleging the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan are nothing new. They have been repeatedly refuted both by agents of Western special services (for instance, by testimony given by the French spy Ph. Augoyard, as well as by authoritative commissions). The documents presented to newsmen in Kabul expose the mechanism of another anti-Afghan provocation, and have once again convincingly exposed those directing the activities of the counter-revolutionary factions aimed at undermining the authority of the people's power in Afghanistan.

NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER IN U.S. FOR VISIT

LD251156 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Washington February 25 TASS -- By TASS correspondent A. Shalnev:

Talks have been held at the White House between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Robert Muldoon of New Zealand, on an official visit here.

At the talks, as well as at Muldoon's meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz, special attention was given to the questions of enhancing the role of the aggressive ANZUS bloc in the American Administration's global militarist preparations. Washington does not conceal its intention to try and turn New Zealand and Australia, its junior bloc partners, into jumping-off grounds for the Pentagon-planned combat operations not only in the Pacific, but also in the Indian Ocean up to the Persian Gulf area.

It is not accidental that the White House chief, highly appraising Wellington's dedication to ANZUS, made it clear that New Zealand's contribution far exceeds the boundaries of the southern regions of the Pacific Ocean.

Judging by remarks made by a high-ranking State Department official, Washington's demands to this effect met understanding on the part of the New Zealand prime minister. It was confirmed that, as earlier agreed, the United States will not be obliged to notify the New Zealand Government of the presence of nuclear weapons on board American ships calling at ports of that country. A similar agreement exists with regard to U.S. combat planes, including B-52 strategic bombers.

While the talks on these issues, as a Washington administration spokesman said, were "productive," a number of problems of trade, economic and financial relations between the two states remained unresolved. Robert Muldoon expressed "serious concern" over, specifically, the United States' openly egoistic trade policy which harbours adverse consequences for New Zealand. In reply, observers note, the American side limited itself to a hypocritical "expression of sympathy."

U.S. 'PRESSURE' SERIOUS THREAT TO AUSTRALIA

LD280004 Moscow TASS in English 2029 GMT 27 Feb 84

["Under Washington's Pressure" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- TASS commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

As reported by UPI agency, the Australian Government today came up with a new explanation of its policy concerning the calling at the country's ports of foreign ships with nuclear weapons on board. It announced that it will allow such calls by ships of allied states without notification whether these ships carry nuclear weapons. The Australian Defence Minister Gordon Scholes declared on Sunday that the Australian Government does not need any notification from its allies about whether their ships have nuclear weapons on board or not.

When giving the Labour Party the mandate to form the government a year ago the Australian electorate rejected the policy of the conservatives directed at expanding Australia's role in the Pentagon's plans.

A considerable part of the Labourites themselves believe that Australia should not blindly follow its American ally from ANZUS. Despite this Canberra has given in to Washington's pressure in a question of much importance for ensuring Australia's security.

After the recent incident with the British aircraft carrier "Invincible", which was not allowed to undergo repairs at one of the Australian dry docks, the Pentagon began to pursue a still more rigid line opposing any restrictions whatsoever on the use of Australian ports by American nuclear-capable ships. London gave full support to its American ally in this. In fact Washington has imposed on Canberra its position according to which the American Command does not confirm and does not deny the presence of the nuclear arms on board American ships. But it is known that most of the American 7th Fleet -- this main strike force of the United States Navy in the Pacific -- are armed with nuclear weapons. This is particularly true of aircraft carriers and submarines.

The Australian Government's present position in respect of the entry into the country's ports of American and British ships with nuclear arms on board creates a serious threat to the security of the country which is becoming increasingly involved in the Pentagon's nuclear-missile strategy. It is not by chance that a high-placed Pentagon official who made an inspection tour of Australia early in February said at a moment of frankness, the newspaper AUSTRALIAN reports, that he could not imagine a military conflict with the participation of the United States into which Australia would not have been drawn as well.

In its time the present Australian Government announced its intention to press for the south-western part of the Pacific to become a nuclear-free zone. How can one square this intention with its readiness to make Australian ports available to American nuclear-capable ships?

PACIFIC COUNTRIES PROTEST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

LD242001 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Canberra February 24 TASS -- The ruling circles of the countries situated in the South Pacific have protested over French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's claim that French nuclear tests on Mururoa atoll "are not an object of concern to Pacific countries". The Australian Foreign Ministry said that Cheysson's statement did not reflect the real position of the Australian Government on nuclear tests conducted by France and that the problem of experiments on Mururoa worried Canberra seriously. Lionel Bowen, deputy prime minister of Australia, pointed out that the French Government had been repeatedly notified about his country's opposition to nuclear tests in the Pacific which posed a threat to the population of all countries located in the region.

Warren Cooper, foreign minister of New Zealand, issued a special statement, emphasizing that his government opposed French nuclear tests.

Despite protests from Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific countries France is continuing to make busy use of its testing site on Mururoa. From 1975 it has staged some 60 blasts there. According to Japanese press reports, more than 500 inhabitants of French Polynesia, who have died from leukaemia and other forms of cancer, have fallen victim to them. Nonetheless, Cheysson, defending his country's nuclear policy, said during his visit to Wellington late last year that French nuclear weapons were allegedly "an instrument of peace" and so it was essential for Paris to carry on its nuclear tests in the Pacific.

PRK'S HUN SEN STOPS IN MOSCOW ON WAY TO AFRICA

PM241023 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Moscow Stopover"]

[Text] Hun Sen, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and PRK foreign minister, who is heading for a number of African countries, stopped over in Moscow 15-21 February.

SIHANOUK TRIPS, ACTIONS 'PATHETIC FARCE'

PM271240 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Pathetic Farce"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 22 Feb -- The ballyhoo whipped up by the West's mass media about the "activities" of the nonexistent "Democratic Kampuchea's" notorious "Coalition Government" is a pathetic farce aimed at deceiving international public opinion, the Kampuchean news agency SPK notes in its commentary.

The widely advertised trips by Sihanouk, current leader of Khmer reaction, are just a fuss aimed at giving the mythical "state" the appearance of viability, SPK notes. The reality is the existence of the PRK on the one hand and, on the other, of a pathetic pocket of Pol Pot holdouts encamped on Thai territory near the Kampuchean border and also of certain politickers who are attempting to play the "Kampuchea card" for their own mercenary interests.

It is also obvious that Thailand has fallen victim to the adventurist policy of U.S. imperialism and the forces of hegemonism, aimed at destabilizing the situation in Southeast Asia.

INDONESIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER HAILS TIES WITH SRV

BK241146 Moscow in Thai to Thailand 1100 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Dear listeners, Indonesian Foreign Minister Kusumaatmaja told newsmen at Jakarta Airport that he positively evaluated Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Murdani's visit to Vietnam. He said he agreed with General Murdani that Vietnam has not posed any threat to the Southeast Asian countries, stressing that we view Vietnam as a friend, not an enemy. Following is the opinion of Radio Moscow commentator Yuriy Kuznetsov on the effort to create good understanding among the Southeast Asian countries:

The Indonesian leader's positive evaluation indicates his understanding of the policies of Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries and his ability to correctly distinguish the region's really urgent problems that Indonesia believes should be resolved peacefully in order to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and stability. Such a policy was reiterated once again at the recent ASEAN foreign ministers meeting. Considering this policy and comparing it with the resolution adopted at the Vientiane meeting of the representatives of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea in late January, one can see that talks between the two groups of countries to create good neighborhood and cooperation among the countries in the region are possible.

The three Indochinese countries appealed once again to ASEAN to open a dialogue in a constructive manner.

The Indonesian foreign minister said the statement issued at the end of the Vientiane conference carries a positive gesture because it proposes a dialogue to create good understanding between the two groups and can be regarded as another step toward progress. It is obvious that the new initiative of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea is in line with the interests of the peoples of all races and languages in the region. However, the effort to put this initiative into action has encountered numerous obstacles, causing tension in many places, particularly along the Thai-Kampuchean border where the situation seems to aggravate to the point of armed conflict. Why does this happen? It is because of interference by some countries which, by all ways and means, have been trying to prevent the Indochinese and ASEAN countries from meeting at the negotiating table to reduce international tension. Those foreign countries even incited the two groups of countries to confront each other directly. One of their deceptive schemes is to utilize the Kampuchean problem they have cooked up.

The Vientiane statement also clearly points out who these foreign instigators are. First is the current U.S. Administration, which is pursuing a hostile attitude toward the Indochinese peoples. Meanwhile, China is fanning tension, helping the Pol Pot clique and other Khmer reactionary forces. The Indochinese countries denounced this policy and expressed their willingness to develop relations with China on the basis of peaceful coexistence.

Regarding the controversial Kampuchean problem which has been imposed on the ASEAN countries, no such problem exists. The real problem is the open interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea in the attempt to prevent the Kampuchean people from walking on the path they have chosen and to impose the Pol Pot clique-style government on the Kampuchean people.

It is appropriate to recall that the Kampuchean people have already demonstrated their reaction toward such a government 5 years ago when they drove out the evil clique of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean people voted freely throughout the country to elect their own government to rule the country and to reconstruct their nation from the ashes. The recent closure of the Kampuchean National Assembly indicated that the reconstruction and restoration of the nation have been successful. What delays the progress in that country is the external threat caused by the Pol Pot clique's gunmen who slipped from Thai territory to cause unrest inside Kampuchea. It is this external threat that makes the continuing presence of Vietnamese volunteer troops in Kampuchea necessary. Both Kampuchea and Vietnam have declared that Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn only when the external threat ceases to exist. Everybody knows that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea has been made gradually since July 1982. Another batch will be withdrawn this year if the situation permits.

The tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border could possibly be resolved by implementing the Indochinese countries' proposal which suggests the setting up of safety zone on both sides of the border under the supervision of the international community.

More people in ASEAN have come to realize that the concoction of the Kampuchean problem is nonsense and does not serve the interests of the Southeast Asian peoples. The Indonesian foreign minister said during a meeting of the parliamentary commission on foreign, defense, and security affairs that Indonesia opposes in principle the return to power in Kampuchea of the Pol Pot clique.

The question of the Pol Pot clique must be decided by the Kampuchean people themselves. He is right. The Kampuchean people have already made their decision on this matter by throwing the Pol Pot clique out of the country and meted out severe punishment for its genocidal crimes.

It should be added that although the situation in Southeast Asia remains confusing, the positive trend is being further developed. It is hoped that politics in Southeast Asia will be stable and lead to mutual cooperation as good neighbors. This can be possible first through constructive negotiations to create good understanding among the countries in the region as earlier proposed by ASEAN by the Indochinese countries.

SRV, PRK, LAOS TRAVELING 'GREAT ROAD' IN ASIA

LD241215 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 24 Feb 84

["PRAVDA: A Positive Factor" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- 'PRAVDA' comments on the forthcoming official visit of Vietnam's foreign minister to Indonesia to exchange opinion on bilateral relations and to discuss the situation in Kampuchea and in Southeast Asia as a whole.

"The active and constructive diplomacy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with dialogue with other Southeast Asian countries being its major component," the newspaper says, "is in accord with the common efforts of the three fraternal Indochinese countries, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, aimed at improving the political climate in the region. These efforts are a practical embodiment of the course chartered by the summit of the Vietnamese, Kampuchean and Lao leaders in Vientiane a year ago. That course is aimed basically at creating an atmosphere of fruitful cooperation and goodneighbourliness with the member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)."

Looking back on the year since the Vientiane summit, the article says, one clearly sees what a great road has been travelled by the three fraternal countries towards the practical solution of major Asian problems.

"The latest, 8th conference of the foreign ministers of the three fraternal Indochinese countries," 'PRAVDA' continues, "put forward a number of initiatives for a comprehensive or partial settlement in Southeast Asia. The three countries voiced their readiness to sign with ASEAN even before such a settlement a general agreement on the principles of mutual relations between the two groups of countries with a view to averting the slide to confrontation.

"These practical manifestations of the goodwill of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, including the withdrawal of a part of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea, the intention to continue troop withdrawals and visits by the Vietnamese foreign minister to the ASEAN countries, cannot help exerting a positive influence on the political climate in Southeast Asia."

"The course proclaimed by the Vientiane summit has become a major positive factor in the development of the situation in Asia and in Southeast Asia in particular," PRAVDA stresses in conclusion.

SFRY DELEGATION PAYS 'FRIENDLY BUSINESS VISIT'

Arrives in Moscow

LD271422 Moscow TASS in English 1353 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- Vidoje Zarkovic, vice president of the collective Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, arrived in Moscow today for a friendly business visit at the invitation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Lazar Majsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, and other officials arrived together with him.

At the airport the guests were met by Peter Strautmanis, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and by other officials.

Delegation Members Named

LD271221 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1124 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Moscow, 27 Feb (TANJUG) -- Vidoje Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, has arrived in Moscow for a 4-day working and friendly visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In the SFRY delegation are Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary for foreign affairs; Jon Srbovan, member of the Federal Executive Council; and Milojko Drulovic, Yugoslav ambassador in Moscow.

According to the agenda of the Yugoslav delegation's visit to the Soviet Union, Vidoje Zarkovic and his host, Vasiliy Kuznetsov, accompanied by the members of the two delegations, will hold their first talks this morning.

Introductory Statements

LD271628 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1503 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow 27 Feb (TANJUG) -- Talks began in the Soviet parliament building in the Kremlin this afternoon -- 2 hours after the arrival of the Yugoslav delegation -- between Vidoje Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency; and Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and acting head of state. The Yugoslav-Soviet exchange of views -- the first top level meeting since Premier Nikolay Tikhonov's visit to Belgrade in March last year -- covers the international situation and bilateral relations. According to the program tomorrow morning Zarkovic and Kuznetsov will have another meeting, during which the two delegations will carry out the final exchange of views.

In their introductory statements the heads of the two delegations expressed serious concern over the dangerous exacerbation of the international situation, while the assessment of Yugoslav-Soviet relations stressed successful cooperation -- its stability, continuity and constant ascent.

Within the ambit of the evaluation of the latest developments in international relations and the tendency toward confrontation, it was stressed in particular that the roles and responsibilities of all the states were irreplaceable in the efforts to bring the world back to the path of detente.

To prevent a nuclear war and to establish a climate of confidence among the states represents, without a doubt, the most significant objective within the ambit of the global task of preserving peace, the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation on an equal footing. It was pointed out in this context that any possible differences in the approach and evaluation of specific international questions should not represent an obstacle to the development of relations and cooperation.

The Yugoslav side also stressed that all controversial questions must be resolved by peaceful means and through negotiations. In this context, the stand was reiterated that there is a need to revive all the dialogues leading to the consolidation of a policy of peace, security and cooperation.

An assessment was made during the talks of the present level of Yugoslav-Soviet relations and cooperation, which were said to confirm the long-term nature and the importance of the principles of the 1955 Belgrade Declaration and of the 1956 Moscow Statement; that is to say of the principles on which the relations between the SFRY and the USSR have been based for almost 30 years. It was said that the successful development and the high level of cooperation guarantee the respect for, and the application of, the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and equality, and also the acknowledgement and development of peaceful coexistance and of the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Zarkovic, Kuznetsov Talk

LD271831 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1649 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, February 27 (TANJUG) -- Concern over the dangerous intensification of the international situation and satisfaction with the very successful and stable bilateral cooperation have been stated in Yugoslav-Soviet talks which began today, Monday, in Moscow.

A delegation of Yugoslavia is headed by Vidoje Zarkovic, Presidency of Yugoslavia vice president, and a delegation of the Soviet Union by Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the acting head of state.

The Yugoslav delegation arrived this afternoon in Moscow. Zarkovic and Kuznetsov are to have another exchange of views tomorrow.

The Zarkovic-Kuznetsov talks on increasing international confrontation, particularly stressed the role and responsibility of all states as an irreplaceable factor in efforts to restore detente in the world. In this context, a priority goal is the prevention of nuclear catastrophe and the creation of a climate of trust between confronting sides. Eventual differences in the approach to and the evaluation of certain international issues should not be an obstacle to the development of successful cooperation, the talks emphasized.

The Yugoslav side stressed that all disputed issues must be settled peacefully by negotiations. The necessity for the renewal of all dialogues leading to the strengthening of the policy of peace, security and cooperation, was underlined.

In an assessment of Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation, it was pointed out that for thirty years now it has been constantly developing successfully on the principles of equality, sovereignty, and non-interference in the affairs of each country, that is on the principles of the 1955 Belgrade Declaration and the 1956 Moscow Statement.

Topics of Talks Detailed

AU272000 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Bogoljub Lacmanovic, VJESNIK correspondent, report from Moscow]

[Excerpts] Yugoslav-Soviet talks began in the Kremlin in Moscow this afternoon. They are conducted on the Yugoslav side by Vidoje Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, and on the Soviet side by Vasiliy Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The talks in the Kremlin today lasted alsmot 2 and 1/2 hours and they passed in a very cordial atmosphere, an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. In these talks, both sides carried out a detailed analysis of their overall bilateral relations, assessing them positively and confirming the further development of Yugoslav-Soviet relations on the well-known principles expressed in the Belgrade Declaration of 1955 and the Moscow Statement of 1956.

Informing his guests about the development of the Soviet Union, Vasiliy Kuznetsov stressed that the course of the 26th CPSU Congress remains unchanged. Zarkovic acquainted his host with the development of the self-managing socialist Yugoslavia and the program of economic stabilization, which received support by the Soviet side. The two countries' economic cooperation was highly appraised in the talks and it was stressed that it is mutually beneficial. Zarkovic and Kuznetsov also exchanged views on the complex international situation, and both sides stressed the first encouraging results of the Stockholm conference in European security. The Yugoslav side particularly pointed out the role of the Nonaligned Movement in improving the complex international situation. International economic problems were also discussed; Yugoslavia considers them not a limited but a worldwide problem. The Yugoslav-Soviet talks within the 4-day working friendly visit of the SFRY delegation to the Soviet Union will continue tomorrow morning in the Kremlin.

'Warm, Comradely' Talks

LD272011 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS — Soviet-Yugoslav talks began in the Kremlin today between alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Vasiliy Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ivan Arkhipov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Boris Aristov and Vice President of the Collective Presidency of Yugoslavia Vidoje Zarkovic, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia Lazar Mojsov, Member of the Federal Executive Council Jon Srbovan and the Yugoslav Ambassador in the USSR Milojo Drulovic. Vasiliy Kuznetsov informed Vidoje Zarkovic about the course of the fulfillment in the USSR of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the subsequent plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee and plans of social and economic development. He spoke about the preparations that are nearing completion for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that have brought about a big patriotic and labour upsurge in the country. Specially stressed was the importance of the February (1984) Plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee that in an atmosphere of full unanimity and cohesion elected Konstantin Chernenko to the post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The plenary meeting expressed unbending will to ensure continuity in policy, firmly and consistently to follow the tested Leninist course.

Vidoje Zarkovic informed the Soviet side about topical questions of the social, economic and political development of Yugoslavia. He spoke about the work done in the country to implement the programme of economic stabilisation, and stated resolve to overcome the existing difficulties.

The sides noted with satisfaction that relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia are successfully developing in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other fields, and expressed readiness to further expand all-round Soviet-Yugoslav cooperation. It was stressed that ties between the supreme legislative bodies of the USSR and Yugoslavia play an important role in the further consolidation of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The sides agree that these ties should be developed further.

When the international situation was discussed views were exchanged on questions connected with the tasks of removing the nuclear threat, curbing the arms race, preserving and deepening detente.

Vasiliy Kuznetsov stressed that the course of strengthening peace, of equal cooperation with all states, which was confirmed at the pre-term February 1984 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, in speeches by Soviet leaders, will be undeviatingly pursued. The attention of the Yugoslav side was drawn to the Soviet Union's concrete foreign policy initiatives directed at improving the international situation, lessening the level of military confrontation and strengthening security in Europe and in the whole world.

Vidoje Zarkovic expressed concern at the tense situation in the world and worry over the threat overhanging mankind. In this connection the USSR's peace initiatives are positively appraised in Yugoslavia, he stated.

The sides stressed that special importance is being acquired in the present conditions by the interaction of all the peace forces coming out for the adoption of practical measures directed at disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, creation of a climate of trust and constructive cooperation, in defence of the rights of peoples to independence and social progress.

The talks are passing in a warm, comradely atmosphere.

The talks will be continued.

Zarkovic Moscow Briefing

LD272347 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1835 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb (TANJUG) -- Vidoje Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY presidency, and Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary of foreign affairs, were guests tonight in the Yugoslav Club in Moscow. During the meeting Zarkovic and Mojsov briefed Yugoslav businessmen and our other citizens working in the Soviet capital on the internal-political situation in our country, the efforts and results of implementing the long-term program of stabilization and new measures by federal and republican organs in the field of the economy and in order to revive production. Special emphasis was placed on increased exports last year which is a significant initial step in our joint efforts to carry out stabilization measures. Lazar Mojsov briefed his hosts in the Yugoslav Club on our country's foreign political activity including the recent visit to the United States by President of the SFRY Presidency Mika Spiljak.

Vidoje Zarkovic and Lazar Mojsov replied to several questions. They also heard the views by several of our businessmen on the conditions of their work in the USSR and on the possibilities for the development of Yugoslav-Soviet economic cooperation.

NURIYEV LEADS DELEGATION ON VISIT TO BELGRADE

LD271944 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Ziya Nuriyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Belgrade today at the invitation of the SFRY Federal Executive Council. The delegation comprises Lev Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; Gennadiy Zhuravlev, first deputy minister of foreign trade; and other officials. At Belgrade airport the delegation was welcomed by Vice President of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council Srebric, and other officials.

USSR, SFRY EXTEND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

LD221853 Moscow TASS in English 1709 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS -- The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are effectively extending their economic and technical cooperation in the steel industry, non-ferrous metallurgy, power engineering, chemicals and agriculture, among other fields. The year 1983 was quite remarkable for the further expansion of bilateral business contacts: Seven projects built in Yugoslavia by the joint efforts of the two countries were put into operation. These include, in particular, the first stage of the battery plant in Probistip, the first generating unit of the "Gacko" heat power station with a capacity of 300 megawatts, and a bitumen plant at the oil refinery in Pancevo. The expansion of the lead and zinc mine and ore enrichment plant "Stari Trg" from 630,000 to one million tons a year was completed.

Closely cooperating, the two countries completed in 1983 the plant to build reinforced concrete pressure tubes in Kosjeric, the first factory of this kind in Yugoslavia. It will manufacture 40 kilometres of tubes a year.

The sides continue intensively to cooperate in agriculture. Last year two grain elevators built in Yugoslavia with Soviet technical assistance were put into operation: the one in Svetozarevo has a capacity of 15,000 tons and the one in Kikinda 20,000 tons.

Economic cooperation between the two countries always relies on the principles of mutual benefit. The Probistip plant, for instance, will supply the USSR with large shipments of starter batteries for a number of years and the alumina factory "Birac," also built with the assistance of Soviet organisations, will deliver large shipments of its output to the USSR as well.

The mutually-beneficial character of Soviet-Yugoslav economic cooperation is illustrated by the business contacts of the two countries in nuclear power engineering and the production of equipment for it. Several years ago, for instance, a number of major plants in Yugoslavia modernized the existing workshops and built new ones, installing modern equipment, and introduced in production according to Soviet documents sophisticated processes to manufacture major pieces of equipment for atomic power stations. At present the USSR is the major buyer of that output: During the past few months, for instance, Yugoslavia's "Energoinvest" concluded with Soviet organisations contracts to supply the USSR with equipment for atomic power plants now under construction to the total value of about 50 million dollars.

RUSAKOV RECEIVES BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP BODY CHIEF

PM271223 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Cordial Atmosphere"]

[Text] K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received N. Papazov, member of the BCP Central Committee ans of the Bulgarian State Council and chairman of the All-National Committee for Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship, 21 February. Ye.V. Ivanov, first deputy chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Presidium, and D. Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, participated in the talk, which was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

DEMICHEV MEETS WITH GDR CULTURE MINISTER

PM271514 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "In a Comradely Atmosphere"]

[Text] A meeting was held 21 February between P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture and H.J. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee and GDR minister of culture. In a cordial, comradely atmosphere questions of the further development of cultural links between the two fraternal countries were discussed.

GDR PAPER HITS 'REVANCHIST' BONN STATEMENT

PM271119 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 84 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Article"]

[Text] The newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, organ of the SED Central Committee, has published an article titled "Declaration Against Reality and Common Sense," which says in particular that the recent declaration by the FRG Bundestag on relations between the GDR and the FRG is far from contributing to their development.

Adopted in the atmosphere of the increased threat of war created by the U.S. policy of unrestrained armament, confrontation, and "crusade" against communism, which damages relations between the two German states, this declaration abounds in revanchist appeals which are contrary not only to reality but also to the treaty on the bases of relations between the GDR and the FRG.

These relations are based on the results of World War II and the postwar development, as confirmed by the European system of treaties, the Helsinki Final Act, and primarily the treaty on the bases of relations between the GDR and the FRG. Experience has confirmed that progress in relations is possible only to the extent to which there is observance of the treaty's principal provision that both sides respect the independence and autonomy of each of the two states in its domestic and foreign affairs.

The document adopted by the Bundestag, however, does not correspond with this basic principle. Contrary to truth, the GDR is being accused of hindering the establishment of good-neighborly relations. Furthermore, there is no mention of the fact that the siting of new U.S. nuclear missiles that has begun on FRG territory seriously complicates relations between the two German states and their citizens and, in addition, threatens their very lives. It could be that it is hoped to use accusations against the GDR to distract attention from the fact that the real obstacle hindering the further development of relations between the two German states is Bonn's refusal to fully respect GDR citizenship and to reach a mutually acceptable agreement on the Elbe frontier in accordance with international law.

Detente and cooperation must not be ruled out of relations between the two German states, either in declarations or in practical deeds. It is necessary not only for the GDR but also for the FRG to act in this spirit. The fact that the Social Democratic Party of Germany faction, having said "no" to the siting of missiles, has now unanimously joined in this statement by the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union shows that it has not yet completely rid itself of the halfheartedness so typical of its steps during its time in power with the Free Democratic Party. The only thing left is to repeat that anyone who expects to take even a single step nearer the implementation of adventurous and revanchist dreams in relation to the GDR by taking advantage of the tense situation in the world is making a serious mistake. The GDR is approaching the 35th anniversary of its foundation as a stable, forward looking, sovereign socialist state. Hypocritical sermons and revanchist threats have failed to change a single thing in the past, and this is how it will remain in the future. The latest Bonn declaration will change nothing in this respect, either, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND writes.

SED, PCF STATEMENT ON HONECKER, MARCHAIS TALKS

LD271417 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Berlin February 27 TASS -- The leaders of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and the French Communist Party [PCF] have emphasised the need of termination of escalation of the arms race and the need of stage-by-stage reduction of armaments without unilateral advantages.

This is stressed in a joint statement about a friendly exchange of opinions between General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Erich Honecker and General Secretary of the French Communist Party George Marchais. In the document it is noted that the participants in the meeting discussed priority tasks of the struggle for peace and disarmament in Europe. The danger of the policy of confrontation, which is conducted by the Reagan administration, was noted.

The freeze of nuclear arsenals, conclusion of treaties on mutual non-use of military force and on the maintenance of the relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO states, prohibition of militarisation of outer space and all types of chemical weapons would be of special significance, the statement stresses.

CSSR, GDR 'UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT' COUNTERMEASURES

LD2412128 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] The international situation has deteriorated sharply in recent times through the fault of U.S. imperialism. In these conditions the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, above all Czechoslovakia and the GDR, were forced to take retaliatory measures. In particular, enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles are being deployed on the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR. As the press of these countries point out, the public unanimously supports the forced measures aimed at raising the defense capability of the socialist community and expresses confidence that the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states reliably guarantee the interests of peace and socialism.

WESTERN EUROPE

FRG MINISTER'S VIEW OF EUROMISSILES ASSAILED

PM271600 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

["Apposite Remarks" by B. Vinogradov: "Vain Attempts"]

[Text] FRG Defense Minister Manfred Woerner has the reputation in the West of being a resolute man, confident in his actions. As regards the first quality, it was clearly manifested in his position regarding the U.S. nuclear missiles which are currently being sited on West German territory. The resolve with which Woerner seized the idea of "NATO arms upgrading," was boundless.

The situation is rather more complex as regards confidence. It is, of course, possible to imagine that, contrary to common sense, Woerner is really convinced that peace in Europe will be strengthened with the appearance of Pershing II and cruise missiles there. But then what would happen to the opinion of the majority of FRG people, who see NATO's actions as a growing threat of war? According to Woerner, it is very simple. He resolutely proclaims all supporters of the antimissile movement to be "liars."

The truth, the war minister says, is that "thanks to our resolute actions (having in mind the siting of the missiles -- B.V.), lasting peace has been ensured in Europe." And the fear of war which has gripped so many people is, you see, totally unjustified.

Speaking a few days ago at a Bundeswehr command staff conference in Travemuende, he assured them that the Pershing and cruise missiles installed on the very doorstep of the USSR and its Warsaw Pact allies are allegedly not first-strike weapons. So what kind of weapons are they? It appears that they are defensive, just like the NATO bloc itself, protecting West Europe against "attack from the East." Woerner is probably aware that he is sinning against truth, but this does not disturb him. The only doubt he has is whether there will be sufficient missiles to hit all the Soviet Union's centers should the need arise.

There does not seem to be any need to recall the extent to which the world situation deteriorated with the appearance of U.S. nuclear missiles in West Europe. Or that, as has already been stated, the Warsaw Pact states will not allow the prevailing military equilibrium to be disturbed. There can be no doubts about that. And the confidence in the possibility of attaining military superiority is nothing but an illusion that is dangerous for them.

WEINBERGER BEGINS TALKS WITH UK'S THATCHER

LD271752 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] London February 27 TASS -- U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has arrived in the British capital and immediately begun talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He will also meet his British counterpart, Michael Heseltine, and other members of the British Cabinet.

No official announcement has been made on the subject matter of the talks but the British press believes that they will cover a broad range of issues, including East-West relations, arms control and the situation in the Middle East. The Pentagon chief is expected to demand from the British conservative government further unconditional support for the U.S. Administration's course of continued deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, including Britain, and of escalating military tension in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

'SPLENDID QUALITY' OF USSR-AUSTRIAN TIES NOTED

PM271504 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Article by special correspondent I. Melnikov: "Austria: For the Sake of a Europe of Peace"]

[Text] Vienna-Moscow -- It is 60 years since the establishment of Soviet-Austrian diplomatic relations. In the postwar years they embarked on a course of stable good-neighborliness and multifaceted and mutually advantageous cooperation and are fruitfully helping to strengthen peace initiatives in the center of Europe and the foundations of security and to fashion a climate of interstate trust on our continent.

I looked forward to my new rendezvous with Vienna, where I spent years as correspondent, with interest and, I confess, with impatience. More than 2 years ago, I bade farewell to Austria. What news would there be in the Alpine republic, its capital, and its multifaceted life at the main "crossroads of Europe" -- as they say here?

On the surface everything appears to be just as before in the capital on the Blue Danube. Yet there have been movements on the political stage. The socialist party was in power in the country for 14 years continuously. But now it is no longer alone. For the first time since 1970 it shares governmental responsibility with the Austrian Freedom Party, which reflects the interests of a section of the lower and the middle classes. And, indeed, there is a new incumbent in the federal chancellor's office on Ballhausplatz. He is 55-year old Fred Sinowatz, who has taken over from Bruno Kreisky in the two posts of chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party and head of government of the Austrian Republic.

These changes have taken place in the conditions of an economic crisis, whose waves have been rolling over the Alpine Republic too, and of an international situation aggravated through the aggressive intrigues of U.S. and NATO militarists. All this could not fail to create new problems for Austria's political circles, including both ruling parties, some of which did not cloud the horizon of political life here during the years of detente.

The world is faced with a sharp new twist in the arms race, including the nuclear arms race. This is the first thing which concerns me, Austria's Federal Chancellor F. Sinowatz said in conversation with Soviet journalists. The second thing is that in recent years there has been a considerable increase in the number of military centers of conflict, which puts the world in even greater danger. This is why people everywhere, especially young people, are holding mass antiwar demonstrations.

Austria has promoted many disarmament initiatives, the chancellor continued. And now it sees its task as to promote confidence-building measures, to raise its voice in favor of dialogue, and to achieve specific results for the sake of detente and disarmament.

The changes which have taken place here in awareness of the nuclear danger, the mood of the press, and the degree of determination to avert the threat are very perceptible. Before, meetings of peace-loving forces would gather particpants in hundreds, whereas the national antiwar demonstration held in Vienna before our very eyes had hundreds of thousands of workers, employees, students, schoolchildren, and even servicemen in its ranks. They were united by the awareness that the policy of Washington, which is striving to partition Europe with a new fence of lethal weapons, is dangerous for all countries of the continent. Austria's peace-loving forces are part of the mightly all-European movement against the mad plans of the nuclear maniacs.

The broadest circles of Austria's public, primarily the Communists -- this was shown weightily by the 25th Communist Party of Austria Congress held in January -- persistently seek a clear exposition of the position of the country's government on questions of war and peace in the nuclear age. The appeal issued by the Austrian Government at the end of last year was, to a considerable degree, the result of these efforts. It called on states to use every opportunity to reverse the arms race by adopting genuine disarmament measures.

However the international situation develops, relations between the USSR and Austria have invariably been and continue to be friendly and filled with fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperation. This immutable fact was expressed most graphically in the statements of Federal Chancellor F. Sinowatz.

The splendid quality of the relations between Austria and the USSR -- and these are states with two different social systems -- shows, he told us, that it is possible to pursue an active peace policy even in current conditions. We Austrians, who have good relations with countries of the East and the West, are particularly pleased that in the last decade Austrian-Soviet bilateral relations have developed so successfully. Progress can be observed in all spheres -- economic, trade, cultural, and sports. I am looking forward to my forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union with pleasure, because I will be able within this framework to show once again Austria's interest in developing such relations.

The impressions of one day spent at the Voest-Alpine Combine in Linz were a graphic confirmation of the chancellor's words. Seventy-five thousand people are employed at enterprises of this leader of Austria's nationalized industry. They make high-quality steel, roll automobile sheet, manufacture metal structures, pipelines, and machine tools, launch motor ships and barges, extract coal, and construct metallurgical plants on a turnkey basis. Voest-Alpine cannot imagine its existence without international links (as a symbol of this, there are clockfaces showing Moscow, New York, and Tokyo, as well as Central European time in the office of Director General Beribert Apfalter). Exports account for three-fourths of turnover, and for this reason the concern spends about 3 billion schillings annually on modernizing and improving the structure of production in order to ensure its competitiveness in foreign markets.

But even a high production standard and constant research are not saving the Austrian nationalized concern from the misfortunes of the crisis.

Numerous interlocutors at Voest-Alpine -- from a weighing worker in the cold-rolled metal shop, Leopold Seiringer, to engineer Siegfried Bauer -- did their utmost to emphasize the importance of business links with CEMA countries. In first place they placed the Soviet Union, which purchased one-tenth of exports from the concern in 1982, for instance.

The Soviet partners have long been valued in Linz not just for the size of contracts, but also for the fact that their orders awaken research and design ideas. The supply of a complete set of equipment for the Novolipetsk Metallurgical Combine is an example of one of the deals which are remembered here with pride. Now specialists of the concern are preparing to hand over on a turnkey basis an up-to-date plant for the production of steel from scrap metal in the Belorussian city of Zhlobin.

Soviet foreign trade organizations cooperate successfully not just with Voest-Alpine, but also with many other firms -- there are over 300 such firms in Austria. Deliveries from the USSR are also visible: thousands of Ladas run along the roads of the Alpine republic, machine tools with our stamp work reliably in plant shops here, and Austrian housewives burn Siberian gas in their stoves. In the last decade reciprocal trade turnover increased approxiamtely 600 percent.

For Austria, our country is the sixth-largest market and the third-largest supplier of goods. In the year which has just started Austrian consumers will receive additional amounts of "blue fuel" for Urengoy along the new export gas pipeline.

Production sharing and the joint construction of installations of in third countries are not innovations for either country. Back at the start of the eighties Ryazan machine tool builders and their partners form the lower Austrian firm of Heid created a new model of lathe with digital program control. Rail welding assemblies -- the creation of Soviet designers and their colleagues at Linz's Plasser and Theurer firm -- are in operation on several continents.

"Thanks to Soviet orders and trade deals with other socialist countries, Austria provides employment for at least 150,000 workers and employees," Erwin Scharf, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, of the Communist Party of Austria said in conversation with us. "If it were not for this factor, employment -- the main scourge of capitalist reality -- would double in the country."

The broadest public circles in Austria appraise the role of links with the Soviet Union with gratitude. And, it is no coincidence that the current program of developing and deepening economic, scienctific, technical, and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Austria embraces the period through 1990. This principled line is being rigorously maintained by the present coalition government too, the chancellor noted during our conversation.

The charting of a sober and realistic course in the sea of contemporary problems is assisted by the true compass of the 3-decades old State Treaty on the Restoration of an Independent and Democratic Austria and the status of permanent neutrality proclaimed by the republic. Relying on this firm foundation, the small country in the center of Europe was able even in the mid-fifties to concentrate on the peaceful development of its economy, take part fruitfully in international cooperation, and assist the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems.

BRIEFS

AUSTRIAN FRIENDSHIP PROTOCOL -- Vienna 25 Feb (TASS) - A protocol was signed in the Austrian capital today regarding cooperation between the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the Soviet-Austrian Friendship Society and the Austrian-Soviet Society for 1984. In accordance with the protocol, Days of the Soviet Union will be held in Austria; a colloquium of Soviet and Austrian historians will be held about the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries; and numerous exhibitions and performances by Soviet artistic collectives, artists, and sportsmen will be held. A wide program of undertakings will also be carried out in the Soviet Union. [Excerpts] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2041 GMT 24 Feb 84 LD]

REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON LEBANON

PM271346 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon's Blazing Land"]

[Text] The U.S. press continues to comment on Reagan's press conference, devoted virtually entirely to the situation in Lebanon. The journalists who attended it explicitly characterized the situation as "the debacle of American policy in Lebanon."

Trying to justify his decision to partially withdraw the U.S. Marines from Lebanon, the President claimed that the United States had not yet suffered a defeat there. He stressed in every way that Washington was not going to withdraw the Marines from Lebanon but was just pulling them out to a more "defendable position", that is, to the ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet. Reagan added that some of the Marines would remain on shore presumably to protect the U.S. Embassy.

In addition, he said, the White House plans to leave behind a group of military instructors. He related this to the need to train the Lebanese Army, although he had to admit that that Army was in no shape for training now because it was not an integral force, but was actually disintegrating. Reagan noted that the U.S. fleet would remain off the Lebanese coast and that he did not rule out the possibility that the Marines who had boarded the U.S. ships could in principle again be "engaged on the shore" if, as he cynically stated, conditions for their mission there improved.

Touching upon the events in the Persian Gulf, in particular, the possibility that oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz might be blocked because of the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, Reagan stressed that the United States and its Western allies would "by no means permit that strait to be closed." He again mentioned the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Sea, although he refrained from commenting on the possibility of any practical steps being taken by the United States.

SHULTZ GIVEN 'MAIN BLAME' FOR LEBANON 'DEFEAT'

LD241621 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2015 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Igor Fesunenko]

[Excerpts] Report on the situation in the Lebanon: Israel, which enjoys U.S. patronage, is stepping up aggressive acts and threats, bringing crude pressure to bear on Lebanon. In turn, the United States has halted arms deliveries to the Lebanese Army, afraid of their falling into the hands of Muslim anti-government groups.

The Western press is convinced that the United States is suffering one of its most unpleasant defeats in the Near East.

When such a shameful failure occurs, sooner or later the question of blame crops up. Reproaching only the President, who admitted yesterday that the situation in Lebanon does not look brilliant, well, reproaching only the President would, perhaps, not be totally fair for, in the mind of the American press, for these questions he usually relies on his advisers and counselors. Who are they? The main one who urged the President to take the catastrophic decision to send the Marines to Beirut was, as is known, Secretary of State Shultz. He defended the idea of dispatching troops to Beirut with a view toward achieving the fulfillment of the disgraceful peace agreement foisted on Lebanon last May. Shultz himself has become the main victim of this decision.

The fact is that, as Joseph Kraft, a WASHINGTON POST observer, recalls, it was Shultz who attached extremely great importance to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, because he personally coordinated it during talks and regards it as his -- thus far -- only diplomatic success. Moreover, Kraft writes, Shultz relied too much on force, and finally, his irrepressible striving to talk like a complete and consummate Reaganite and to demonstrate in every possible way that he remained firmly in the saddle deprived him, Shultz, of his sobriety of judgment. By the way, look at the paradox here: When Shultz replaced Haig as secretary of state, voices were being heard in the American press at that time saying, thank God, at last, instead of this hawk, instead of the straightforward and awkward General Haig, a pragmatist, a fairly cautious, flexible, and circumspect man, a real diplomat, Shultz, has landed the post of the country's first diplomat.

Now we can see what these forecasts were worth.

For a long time Reagan believed Shultz, believed his Near East envoy MacFarlane, and only when the complete impossibility of achieving the realization of last year's Lebanese-Israeli peace agreement became evident did the President give the order to move the Marines from Beirut to ships, vessels of the American Navy.

By the way, at yesterday's press conference, Reagan confirmed that the Marines are not leaving but only redeploying. Such is the background to the question.

However, in the view of the foreign press and particularly in the view of the American press, can the United States extricate itself from the impasse in the Near East?

In this respect, THE NEW YORK TIMES says that at present the administration has no specific formula for a settlement in the Lebanon. There is no formula. And THE WASHINGTON POST comes to the conclusion that, I quote, the decision to transfer the remaining Marines to ships in the next few days marks the end of direct American influence on events in Lebanon, and that if anyone inside or outside the administration ever believed that Reagan's intention to rearm America or readiness to dispatch the Marines to Lebanon was sufficient for success, they now no longer think this way. Well, there is no getting away from the truth. Even in America itself, the conviction is growing stronger that the United States long ago stopped being something like a world referee or supreme judge, responsible for the normal functioning of our planet. The sooner this is also understood in the White House, the better it will be for the White House itself.

EGYPT DIFFERS WITH U.S. ON MIDEAST POLICY

PM271616 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent V. Peresada under general heading: "Stop Interference in Near East Countries' Affairs"]

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb -- According to news agency reports, in the past 2 days almost the entire U.S. Navy task force carrying out gendarme functions in the Indian Ocean basin has been brought in to the northern part of the Arabian Sea. The task force is headed by the aircraft carrier Midway. British warships have also been sent to the region. The aggravation of the Iran-Iraq war, which allegedly threatens the "vital interests" of the United States and other Western countries, is being used as a pretext for the concentration of forces.

The intensification of the militarist intrigues of the United States and its NATO partners has been greeted with alarm in the Near East. Imperialist strategists are seeking any opportunity and hiding behind any pretext in their desire to bring their military "fist" closer to the Persian Gulf oil fields, an Aden radio broadcast says. Alongside the seat of tension in Lebanon, another "hot spot" may arise, threatening peace and security, Cairo's EGYPTIAN GAZETTE writes.

The local and foreign press is reporting the intensified differences between Egypt on the one hand and the United States and Israel on the other. In the opinion of observers, the reason for the growth of these differences has been Cairo's "not entirely Camp David-like" approach toward U.S.-Israeli policy in the Near East.

These differences, the Egyptian newspaper ASH-SHA'B writes, were clearly manifested during Egyptian President H. Mubarak's recent U.S. trip. The series of demands which he put forward at the talks and the statements he made to the press displeased Washington and Tel Aviv. This particularly applies to Egypt's demand that the United States recognize the need to resolve the Palestinian problem with the unfailing participation of the PLO and its call for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and the revision of the so-called Lebanese-Israeli "peace agreement."

The newspaper notes that the White House is particularly annoyed that this is the first time since Camp David that the PLO has been mentioned at a U.S.-Egyptian summit meeting. The fact that Cairo had previously issued repeated warnings to the United States against escalating the tension in Lebanon and had refused to make the Egyptian military base of Ras Banas on the Red Sea permanently available to the Pentagon.

As for Tel Aviv, according to AFP "a storm is raging" there. Officials, Zionist organizations, and the progovernment press have taken up arms against the Egyptian president's statements. Egypt is violating its "peace treaty" with us, M. Rosenne, Israeli ambassador to the United States, stated.

This reaction from the United States and Israel is perfectly understandable. Although Egypt as a whole continues to be bound by the Camp David agreements concluded by As-Sadat, Washington and Tel Aviv are obviously perturbed by its growing independence in Near East affairs.

U.S. AIRCRAFT FLY OVER SYRIAN POSITIONS

LD272237 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus February 27 TASS -- A statement released here by the Syrian Army spokesman points out that U.S. planes based on ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet yesterday performed reconnaissance flights over the positions of the Syrian troops contingent of the Inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. Syrian air defence forces opened fire at the planes and forced them to turn back towards the sea.

At the same time, the statement points out, U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast shelled the positions of Syrian troops. There were no losses among the Syrian forces.

U.S. 'ELECTION CONSIDERATIONS' FORCE MARINE WITHDRAWAL

PM271031 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 24 February 1984 in its Morning Edition publishes on page 5 under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion" a 1,000-word Stanislav Kondrashov article entitled "...But They Forgot About the Pitfalls." The article points to "the failure of Washington's policy in Lebanon," claiming that it has ricocheted against those who drew up the policy -- Shultz and Reagan.

Kondrashov goes on to maintain that "election considerations" have forced the President to order the pullout of U.S. Marines from Beirut, since "the majority of his compatriots demand the Marines' immediate withdrawal to avoid American losses in Lebanon." The article concludes as follows: "Americans did not support this adventure by their administration, and the Lebanese rose up against it. Thus, a palpable blow has been struck against the very concept of armed interference in other states' affairs -- a concept so beloved of the present U.S. leaders."

MARINES' MOVE, 'DEFEAT' RESPONSIBILITY EXAMINED

LD261823 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video report from Washington by A. Druzhinin and V. Gusev]

[Text] The pages of American journals and newspapers are currently full of photographs of U.S. Marines leaving Beirut. Some 18 months ago they arrived in Lebanon under cover of the banner of some kind of peace-making mission. Now, burdened with their kitbags, the Marines hasten to beat a retreat to the warships of the 6th Mediterranean Fleet, and their so-called evacuation from the Lebanese soil rather resembles an ignominious flight.

How do American observers evaluate these events? An overwhelming majority admits outright that what we are facing is a defeat for the Reagan administration. Defeat also began to be mentioned on Capitol Hill. Many senators and congressmen are now looking for a scapegoat at whose door the blame could be laid on the hasty withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon. On Capitol Hill demands for the resignation of Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state who is being blamed for large miscalculations and insufficient flexibility in pursuing Washington's foreign policy course in the Near East, can be increasingly heard.

However, if as they say, all the "i"s are dotted, then the cause for the collapse of the U.S. Lebanese adventure is to be found not in the miscalculations made by this or that politician, but in the defeats of all Washington's Near East policy, based on crude interference in other states' affairs, on the use of military force, and on the desire to impose American diktat upon the peoples of the Near East.

However, Reagan's administration does not apparently intend to learn the lesson it has been taught in Lebanon. After all, the U.S. Marines are not leaving the region of the Near East; they have merely redeployed on board the U.S. warships that remain off the Lebanese coast, with the Beirut districts in their sights.

U.S. EFFORTS TO 'RESHAPE' LEBANON FAIL

LD271053 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Feb 84

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] Last week, Lebanon again fulfilled its uneasy role as a major source of hot news. The main news from Lebanon concerned the U.S. Marines. They spent a year and a half here alongside the Beirut International Airport, a place that had been their home for some time. However, it has becoming increasingly inconvenient and uncomfortable. Last year, 250 U.S. soldiers were killed there, about one-sixth of the total U.S. force there. Last week, on orders from Washington, 1,600 Marines started leaving their armed camp and deploying themselves on ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet patrolling off the Lebanese coast.

It is believed that the process of so-called redeployment will take a week or two. It is reported that about 500 men will remain to defend the U.S. Embassy and also serve as advisers training the Lebanese Army.

The Italians have left Beirut, as have the British. True, thus far the French are staying, but of the so-called Multinational Forces which landed in Lebanon in September 1982, only a few crumbs remain. They were combat units of four NATO powers, but the policy of relying on force was pursued only by the United States. They pursued it, but it eluded them; the present redeployment is actual evidence of this.

The main point is not that more than 1,000 soldiers are being redeployed from one place to another, safer place on water. The main point is the failure of an attempt, with the aid of the Marines, seaborne aircraft, and the guns of the battleship "New Jersey," to reshape Lebanon more to the liking of President Reagan and like-minded people than the Lebanese themselves, or at any rate the majority of the Lebanese. Thus, the Lebanese incident saw the failure of the concept of U.S. armed interference in the affairs of other states. This concept was being greatly revived under Reagan, thinking the Americans had forgotten the bitter experience of Vietnam and that they no longer suffered from the Vietnam hangover.

The United States, as we know, acts in Lebanon in concert with Israel, which has consolidated itself in the south beyond the Al-Awali River, assimilating and digesting one-third of Lebanese territory. Along with Israel, Washington relied in its Lebanese policy on pro-Western factions of Lebanese society, on some of the Maronite Christians and on their radical rightist vanguard in the shape of the Phalangist Party.

Promising to consolidate these factions, the United States also attracted to their side President al-Jumayyil. The Lebanese president miscalculated, linking himself with the United States and with the separatist Israeli-Lebanese "peace agreement" which formulated the semivassal position of Lebanon. The National Patriotic Forces rebelled against such an orientation. These forces felt the support of Syria behind them. Syria fears, not without justification, that having pocketed Lebanon, Israel will tackle Syria in earnest.

This is the political background of events over the last few weeks. If we take their military content, it turns out to be a series of successes for the armed units of Druze Muslims and Shi'ite Muslims from the Amal organization. They reportedly now control most of the country's territory. The Lebanese Army, standing behind President al-Jumayyil has lost its combat capability. The fact that Americans are leaving with a flea in their ear does not mean, of course, an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

Now, the Lebanese must again negotiate among themselves, and this task -- the task of national reconciliation -- is extraordinarily complex. Another point: With the redeployment of Americans, the Israeli forces have again stepped up their action. Last week, with the help of the Air Force and tank columns, they undertook several large-scale punitive operations to pacify the Lebanese standing in Israel's way.

LEBANON-GRENADA PARALLELS SEEN IN U.S. POLICY

LD242311 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The American NEWSWEEK magazine says in its latest issue that thousands of shells fired by the battleship "New Jersey" on Lebanon will not cost taxpayers anything. Since ammunition left over from World War II is being used, this mass killing and destruction did not cost a cent. Now here is a commentary prepared by Spartak Beglov, an observer of the NOVOSTI press agency:

So, from the point of view of Americans with whom money is all they care for, the financial balance of this brutal operation may look fine indeed. But what about the balance of American policy in the Middle East?

The shots fired by New Jersey and the actions of American Marines in Lebanon strip the veil off Washington's false peacemaking efforts and expose still more its plans to impose by force the treachery America's will on the nations in the region.

In the United States itself, there has been growing demand to revise this policy. The American fears are clear, considering the bitter lessons of Vietnam and the unwillingness to sacrifice the lives of young men from Kansas or Arizona for such adventures.

However, we too will allow ourselves to express fear that these lessons might not be learned by America in full if Americans do not look at all other manifestations of the position of strength policy Washington practices every time it finds fit in the light of developments in Lebanon. As a matter of fact, just 4 months ago, Lebanon was as much in the news headlines as Grenada. True, there U.S. Marines were brought to the island by other naval vessels -- Independence and Saipan. But does the fact that the invasion of tiny and defenseless Grenada cost a handful of American soldiers' lives make this action of crude violence more acceptable, from the point of view of international law and justice? Of course not!

The bankruptcy of the position of strength policy in the eyes of the rest of the world is determined not by financial losses or Marines casualties. This policy is doomed to failure above all because wherever it is applied, the final result is justice trampled on, the crudely ignored interests of others and a dangerous buildup of tension, bringing the world to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe.

LEBANESE CIVILIAN POPULATION SUFFERING DEPICTED

LD271131 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Feb 84

[From the "International Panorama" program; video report from Beirut by Andrey Popov followed by commentary by program announcer Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Excerpts] Since the second half of January the situation in Lebanon has extremely intensified. The U.S. Marines based near Beirut International Airport were firing practically every day on the southern suburbs of Beirut. U.S. tanks and guns also used fragmentation and phosphorous bombs against the Lebanese civilian population. The U.S. allies in the Multinational Force took policing duties upon themselves. They organized documents checks on the roads, inspected vehicles, and banned movement on the city's streets. The continual intensification of tension in the country, the interference in Lebanese internal affairs by imperialist powers has resulted in a most acute political crisis, as a result of which Al-Wazzan's government was forced to resign. However, it was natural that the government's resignation could not change the situation that had arisen in the country by the beginning of February. Under these circumstances, armed people from detachments of the Lebanese resistance, the organization of independent Nasirite-Murabituns, the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon and other patriots' organizations, came out into the city's street. They have submitted demands, the basic ones being the immediate withdrawal of United States and other foreign froces from Lebanon, a halt to the shelling of Lebanese territory by U.S. warships and aircraft, and the abrogation of the shameful agreement with Israel imposed by Tel Aviv and Washington.

It is natural that the leadership of a country oriented toward the United States could not accept these demands by the people.

As a result, fierce fighting that lasted 4 days erupted in Beirut. The new combat actions on the streets of the Lebanese capital led to an even greater number of victims among the civilian population. Residential and administrative buildings suffered artillery fire. In many places the water supply has been destroyed and lines of communication are out of service. Many problems and difficulties have arisen primarily linked to the great number of wounded. There are insufficient drugs, dressings, and blood serum to treat them. There is not enough fuel oil for heating; electricity is supplied for only a few hours of the day. Transportation of goods has been reduced.

The military contingents of the Multinational Force have behaved differently. Great Britain made a decision and immediately, without waiting for the agreement of its allies, withdrew its soldiers to Cyprus. The U.S. President made the decision to transfer U.S. Marines to the vessels of the 6th Fleet to guarantee their complete security. Embittered by the failure of their big stick policy, the Americans decided to vent their anger on the Lebanese people. President Reagan personally ordered that U.S. naval vessels intensify their fire on Lebanese settlements and positions of the National Patriotic Forces. Carrying out this order, the U.S. battleship New Jersey took up a combat position only a few kilometers from the shores of Beirut, and opened fire from its large-caliber guns. Its huge shells, each weighing almost 1.5 tons, flew off with a terrible din and thunder for dozens of kilometers into the heart of Lebanese territory. The blast shattered glass panes and windows, and doors of houses were torn off their hinges.

U.S. shelling caused terrible destruction in rural parts. There, where shells from the New Jersey fell, nothing remained alive for several hundred meters around.

In one of the mountain regions, near upper Al-Matn, we arrived soon after one of the shellings. We met local residents, talked with them, and asked questions. The inhabitants of a Lebanese village believe that the Americans are shelling the mountain regions not because subunits of the National-Patriotic Forces might be located here, but because they are simply venting their anger on a people that does not wish to submit itself to U.S.-Israeli dictatorship. Thousands of families in various towns and settlements have been left homeless and are forced to live in the open. Many of them, fleeing from the cruel fire from U.S. ships, have moved to Beirut, where, so they thought, they might stay alive. A large number of refugees have come to Beirut from the Israeli-occupied south of Lebanon. These people have occupied unfinished or destroyed buildings, or have settled under tents, which the Lebanese Red Cross, the Red Crescent, and the Civil Defense Society have been able to give them.

It is difficult to view and photograph human suffering. It is particularly painful when the victims are children, women, and old people.

[Kondrashov] I will permit myself a couple of brief concluding remarks to Andrey Popov's reportage. I would like to quote -- I will quote you a statement. This is how it goes -- I quote -- Our U.S. Marines arrived there, in Lebanon that is, and the people greeted them well. The matter is that our Marines -- and this is so typical of the Americans -- very soon organized many useful things for children. They played ball games with them, and engaged in other similar pursuits. In general these are not Marines, but kind uncles and tutors from a kindergarten. Who drew this nice picture? President Reagan. When was it drawn? A month ago in an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST.

At that time, one must remember, the Americans were already playing with the Lebanese and with Lebanese children in their own way -- with 1 and 1/2 ton shells from the battleship "New Jersey." This was the ball game that President Reagan failed to mention. These are the sort of balls which, alas, the Lebanese could not throw back to the Americans. This, let us use Reagan's words, is so typical of Americans. The cruel use of predominant military strength counting on complete impunity is typical.

The second set of concluding remarks is connected with the first. A report by the journal NEWSWEEK -- I quote -- The 16-inch shells with which the battleship "New Jersey" is shelling Lebanon are extremely advantageous for the taxpayers. These shells are being taken from the arsenal of the naval forces left over from World War II: 15,000 high-explosive and 3,000 armour-piecing shells. In fact, at the moment the use of these shells is not costing a penny. Thus, cruelty is not only cruel, but is even economical and extremely advantageous for the U.S. taxpayer -- it's not costing him a cent. This is also so typical of the Americans. To quote President Reagan, incidentally, this concerns not only the shells for battleships. One of the explanations for the unrestrained nuclear arms race, which the Americans have unleashed in the post-war years, is that these arms are relatively cheaper, that is, more advantageous and more acceptable for the taxpayer. Nuclear death is not only the most mass destructive death, but also the cheapest. This is not black humor, but the accountants' computation for Pentagon strategists.

IRAQI AIRCRAFT STRIKE IRANIAN OIL TERMINAL

LD272331 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] According to news agency dispatches, Iraqi aircraft have struck at tankers berthed at the Iranian oil terminal on Kharg island. In its military communique, Iraq says it has begun a blockade of that port. A spokesman for the command said the attack was in retaliation for Iran's strikes at targets in the Iraqi oil-producing area near Basra. Reports from Tehran say Iranian forces are continuing their broad offensive in the southern sector of the front. United States' naval vessels are cruising at the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

U.S.DESTROYER FIRES ON IRANIAN PLANE IN GULF

LD280955 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] On Monday an American missile-carrying destroyer opened fire on an Iranian plane which was making a patrol flight over the Persian Gulf. Following this, the destroyer demanded in the form of an ultimatum that an Iranian patrol ship leave the region which the United States command had proclaimed a restricted zone. American provocative activity testifies to its intention to interfere in the already complicated situation in the Persian Gulf area. The state of affairs there has sharply aggravated in the past few days as a result of another outbreak in the Iran-Iraq conflict. The United States is hastily sending a naval armada to the Persian Gulf.

IRANIAN OFFENSIVE, CASUALTY REPORTS NOTED

LD241339 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad February 24 TASS -- It has been announced here that Iranian troops began a large-scale offensive in the area of the town of Shib on the front's southern section on the night of February 21.

It is pointed out in official circles that its objective is to capture Iraqi territory.

The Iranian side's claim about the seizure of the town of El-Kurna and a number of other frontier Iraqi towns in the south has been officially refuted by Iraqi military spokesmen. According to a communique on the Iraqi high military command broadcast on Baghdad radio, in the course of fighting east of Basra the Iranian attack was beaten back and more than 4,700 enemy troops were killed.

A group of foreign journalists, who visited El-Kurna which is located about 60 kilometres from Basra, did not see in the city any traces of heavy fighting or Iranian presence. The mayor of El-Kurna and other representatives of local authorities told the newsmen that as a result of combat activities, 12 kilometres from the city the Iranian offensive in that sector had been contained, over 1,500 Iranian soldiers had been killed and a considerable number of them had been wounded and taken prisoner. Iranian heavy artillery is continuing to pound the area of the city orf Basra.

Nicosia February 24 TASS -- Iranian troops captured 200 square kilometres of territory in southern Iraq, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. Iranian Armed Forces were also reported to have killed 3,500 Iraqi soldiers in the course of the advance.

Washington February 24 TASS -- The CBS Television network reported fierce fighting on an about 100-kilometre section of the front between Iraq and Iran north of Basra. It was clear from conflicting reports about the clashes, CBS said, only that both sides had suffered heavy casulaties. The TV network also reported that, according to available data, the warring sides had amassed 750,000 troops along the frontline.

IRAQ, IRAN COMMUNIQUES ON COMBAT OPERATIONS

LD271158 Moscow TASS in English 1118 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad February 27 TASS -- Strenuous fighting is continuing on the Iranian-Iraqi front. According to a communique of the Chief Military Command of Iraq, the enemy suffered heavy losses in manpower and equipment to the east of Basra where the Third Corps of the Iraqi Army holds positions. In this area alone, the communique says, Iranian troops lost 5,260 men killed. The Fourth Corps of the Iraqi Army has beaten back on its section of the front new attacks of Iranian land forces, killing 1,200 more Iranian servicemen and destroying 18 tanks, several artillery guns, mortars and other combat equipment. It is said in the communique that the Iranian side has lost over 21,000 men since the beginning of the latest offensive.

During the past twenty-four fours, Iraqi aircraft made about 500 sorties to make strikes at concentrations of Iranian troops and their communication lines. The Iraqi command says that on February 25-26, the Iraqi forces brought down two Iranian fighter bombers which took part in raids against the populated localities of Ba'qubah and 'Ali al-Gharbi.

Iranian artillery heavily shelled the cities of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Ash-Shihabi, causing civilian casualties and great material damage.

Nicosia February 27 TASS -- The Iranian news agency IRNA says that in the last five days of fighting Iranian troops destoyed up to one infantry division of the enemy, put out of operation 30 tanks and downed 4 planes and 10 helicopters of the Iraqi Air Force.

As is said in a communique of the Iranian command, the Iranian Army broke through the enemy defences yesterday on the southern section of the front and captured a strip of territory up to 7 kilometres wide along the Tigris River.

Iraqi aircraft made bombing strikes against Iranian cities. As a result of bombing of Khorramabad, there are numerous casualties among civilians and over 120 houses and other buildings have been destroyed or damaged.

U.S. SEEN EXPLOITING 'SENSELESS' IRAN-IRAQ WAR

LD260954 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS -- The Iranian-Iraqi war has flared up anew this week, writes Yuriy Kharlanov in an international review. Iranian troops, he points out, launched a major offensive Val-Fajr VI (the sixth stage of the "Dawn" operation) which is spearheaded towards Iraq's biggest port of Basra. Success of Iranian troops is reported from Tehran. According to reports from Baghdad. The Iraqis managed to prevent the enemy's serious advance. Both sides, the parties to the conflict, are sustaining major losses in manpower and material. Civilians are losing their lives in air raids and bombardment.

Iran and Iraq are the developing states with not yet very strong economy, they also face difficult problems in the social and cultural spheres, the news analyst points out. The war diverts both countries' huge manpower and material resources. Suffice it to say 500,000 soldiers are concentrated now on the front and near it from either of the sides. According to the data of the Western press, the conflict has already carried away more than 200,000 human lives. There is no doubt that the peoples of both countries are interested in seeing the war ended, that they are interested in going back to peaceful life.

The U.N. Security Council, the author writes, repeatedly took up that problem and in October last year it adopted a resolution calling upon Iran and Iraq to stop military operations. Baghdad is known to have welcomed then that resolution, while Tehran turned it down.

In the world there are circles that would like to avail themselves of the senseless, bloody war to strengthen their political control and military presence in such a disquieting area of the world, it is stressed in the review. This is above all the United States of America, which keeps in the sights of its navy, stationed in the Indian Ocean, both Iran and Iraq, and other states of the Persian Gulf region. Washington tries to draw a number of Arab states, neighbours of Iran and Iraq, into its adventurist designs. "There is no doubt that the dangerous manoeuvres of the American military under the pretext of the Iranian-Iraqi conflict may only still more heighten the atmosphere in that explosive region of the world. The experience of Lebanese events showed once again what U.S. military 'peacemaking' leads to. As to the 'forgotten war', the reason and interest of peoples have long been calling for an end of that senseless and tragic bloodshed, for it to become a really forgotten past."

U.S. PROVOCATIONS IN PERSIAN GULF REGION VIEWED

LD242247 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 24 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Text] The fiasco suffered by the American gunboat diplomacy in Lebanon does by no means indicate that Washington intends to alter its expansionist policy in the region as a whole. These past few days one has observed the feverish activities of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf area.

Our correspondent for the Near Eastern countries, Leonid Rassadin, comments:

"Great concern is aroused in the Arab capitals by the increase of tension, unprecedented in the last few years, in the Persian Gulf zone. On the one hand, the fire of the Iranian-Iraqi war has flared up again, fanned by external imperialist forces. On the other hand, one sees an escalation of armed interference of the United States in that area of the world rich in oil. According to the latest reports, a whole flotilla of American naval forces have moved close to the Strait of Hormuz. It includes an aircraft carrier. British naval ships, with rockets on board, are being urgently transferred to the same area. One is also alerted by ever new threats from Washington.

The progressive public of the coastal states in the area of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf assess as obviously provocative the (?statements) of high ranking figures of the Reagan administration to the effect that the United States can, in case of necessity, use the fire capacity of its fleet in the Persian Gulf zone. And the pretext is still the same: The necessity to defend some vital interests of the United States in the Persian Gulf zone. Aden radio stresses in this connection that the issue in point is the global strategy of American imperialism, which is striving, with the help of naked force, to subject to its control vast areas of the world, including even such as are situated thousands of kilometers from America. This is shown for example by the undeclared war of terror of the United States against the Lebanese people. It is not impossible now that the United States and its allies in NATO are planning a large scale aggressive action against the peoples of coastal states of the Persian Gulf.

CRITICISM OF MOSCOW'S IRAN POLICY ANSWERED

PM241149 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 7, Feb 84 p 32

[Article by associate editor Dmitriy Volskiy under the rubric "Taking Up a Point"; first paragraph is a letter from the Iranian Students Association, Hyderabad, India]

[Text] "You supposedly advocate a revolutionary and anti-tyranny foreign policy. But as far as Iran is concerned, this seems to be doubtful. You extended to the Shah a generous hand of economic co-operation. Now in the name of co-operating with an 'anti-imperialist' Islamic government you have simply overlooked the fact that anti-American gestures do not justify an anti-human policy.... You have somehow changed your policy since the arrest of the leaders of the pro-Moscow Tudeh Party. But even today you have not taken a firm stand against tyranny in Iran. Does this not mean that in your foreign policy you are guided by sheer pragmatism?"

You are of course entitled to your own opinion about the present regime in Iran. I should merely like to note that unlike the monarchy, the Islamic regime was not imposed from without, but came into being as a result of the internal struggle that followed the overthrow of the Shah. Consequently, it could not but be marked by some specific features characteristic of the present stage in the development of Iranian society. These specific features are an objective factor, just as is the dissatisfaction among certain sections of society which finds expression also in your letter, and, for that matter, in the fact that you live not in your own country but in exile.

But what you say about Soviet policy towards Iran is, in our opinion, clearly biased and unfair. True, your letter was no doubt written in anger, under the influence of the passions that are running high both in Iran itself and among the heterogeneous emigre circles. You are of course better informed than anyone else of the debates that are going on over Iran's prospects for the future. These debates are understandably acrid. For the question of what place your ancient land will occupy in the world of tomorrow is being decided today, right now. Let us approach the question you raise from this angle. Does the Soviet Union's policy towards Iran accord with the true long-term interests of your people? Surely you will agree that it is in the answer to this question that the key to an understanding of the whole problem lies.

Let us begin with truths that have long been common knowledge but nevertheless are as valid today as ever. First, the fact that it is particularly important for neighbouring countries to live at peace with each other and to maintain the best possible normal relations. Second, that one of the fundamental norms of present-day international law is non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. It is on these principles that the Soviet Union seeks to build its relations with Iran, quite irrespective of whether Soviet people like or do not like the present order and dominant ideology in that country. Where does the "sheer pragmatism" come in?

Some young people perhaps may not realize that besides dreams and emotions there also exist political realities and economic imperatives, a fact that is constantly brought home to the Iranian working people by their own bitter experience. It was they and not the Shah who benefited by the fact that the U.S.S.R., as you put it, extended "a generous hand of economic co-operation." And that hand remains extended now too.

Normal intercourse with the Soviet Union is important for the Iranian people also in another respect. You speak of the "anti-American gestures" of the present Tehran leadership. But were the expulsion of American military advisers and the dismantling of U.S. military installations mere "gestures"? As regards Washington, it is not a matter of "gestures" but of openly anti-Iranian plans, and, indeed, also actions. On the one hand, the U.S. is resorting to diverse expedients to impel the Islamic regime even farther to the right, and, on the other, holds the threat of invasion over Iran. The Persian Gulf countries, Iran included, have officially been included in the sphere of operations of the U.S. Central Command, which has at its disposal the notorious Rapid Deployment Force.

Perhaps you think these are simply routine staff exercises? If that were so, it would not be so bad. Regrettably, however, experienced situation analysts are of a different opinion. The indications are that the Pentagon is getting ready for large-scale intervention in the Gulf area. All the more so, since it has a ready-made pretext for such action -- the protracted Iranian-Iraqi war which, in the opinion of many, is entering a critical phase. Is it not in the interests of the Iranian people that Moscow invariably stands for the termination of this senseless war, which can benefit only the imperialists? Surely you do not want the Soviet Union to turn its back on Iran in these circumstances because of non-acceptance of the "anti-human policy" if the Islamic regiome? To do so would be damaging not only to your people, but also to the cause of world peace. Recall the exposure a year ago of secret Pentagon papers which show that the U.S. militarists regard the developments in Iran as a possible detonator of a third world war. The international situation today is so dangerous that the prevention of war should be the concern of all who do not want to see the destruction of all humanity.

This is what reason dictates. And what do our feelings prompt us to do -- the humane feelings of compassion for innocent people, our political sympathies and antipathies? In the initial period of the Iranian revolution the Soviet public, like all progressive-minded Iranians, hoped that a bright page was being opened in the history of your country. There were also fears that things might take a different turn. All this, incidentally, was reflected in our press, NEW TIMES included. No, we did not "overlook" anything! On repeated occasions our journal gave principled evaluations of the changing situation in your country -- the last time in our issue No 2 for this year. The present writer too has had occasion in recent years to write about Iran. This I have done, I must admit, with a heavy heart, with growing fear for the fate of a nation which has always been for Soviet people more than just a neighbour. And what was there surprising in the fact that they particularly keenly felt the repressive action taken against functionaries of the Tudeh Party? After all, they share our views, are fellow fighters for our common cause. We feel for them not because of their "pro-Moscow" orientation, as you put it, but because they have firmly defended the interests of the working people over the decades.

This brings us back to what we began with -- the interests of the Iranian people. If you were to judge of Soviet policy towards Iran from this standpoint, I am certain your doubts would be dispelled.

KUWAITI POLICIES, ATTITUDES, NATIONAL DAY HAILED

LD252154 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Today, 25 February, the people of Kuwait celebrate their national day. Our commentator (Viktor Yuriyev) wrote: Kuwait since the first day of independence has been pursuing a foreign policy aimed at the consolidation of international peace and security. The leaders of Kuwait believe that they can guarantee the independence of their state only within the context of nonalignment. Kuwait is successfully developing its relations with all countries irrespective of their social, economic or political orders. And it actively participates in the search for a solution to the various international problems. Kuwait's principled and firm attitude to the most acute problems of the age won it the respect of many countries in the world. It is not in vain that Kuwait has chosen to represent Arab and Asian countries at the Security Council for two years 1977-1979. At this lofty international body Kuwait also made efforts for the consolidation and guaranteeing of peace in our world.

In this the leaders of Kuwait have been cooperating successfully with the USSR. The basic efforts of Kuwaiti diplomacy center on the settlement of the Middle East problem. The Government of Kuwait adopts an unyielding attitude towards this issue because peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the withdrawal of the forces of the Israeli aggressors from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people its legitimate rights, including its right to set up an independent state. Kuwait openly condemns the U.S. plans to spread its military presence in the gulf and impose its trusteeship on the countries of this region. The Government of Kuwait has repeatedly said that there is no need for any trusteeship or assistance from the U.S. and that it is best for the peoples fo this region to be left alone by the Americans. This attitude is fully understood and supported by the USSR.

Kuwait expresses special concern at the continuation of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and, like the USSR, it believes that the continuation of this war benefits only those forces which want to impose their control over the oil-rich and strategically important Gulf countries, those forces which spread claims about the existence of a security vacuum in this region in order to justify their military preparations and set up the so-called Rapid Deployment Force and its like.

Much has been achieved during the years of Kuwaiti independence in the consolidation of the country's political and economic independence. One of the most important steps at home has been the nationalization of foreign oil companies operating there. As a result, the state has the first and last word concerning the production of oil and natural gas. Kuwait invested the growing oil revenues in the achievement of a wide program for the development and diversification of the national economy and attained substantial results. Moreover, Kuwait provides important financial and economic assistance to many Arab and other developing countries.

Kuwait's independent policy, which is in harmony with the country's national interests, enjoys respect in the USSR, which has long had good relations with Kuwait. The visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the USSR in 1981 gave strong impetus to the consolidation of these relations. The talks held in Moscow confirmed once again the agreement or the closeness of Soviet-Kuwaiti attitudes to many pressing international problems, including the one which is important to the Arabs: just settlement in the Middle East and guaranteeing peace and security in the Gulf. Rashid ar-Rashid, deputy foreign minister of Kuwait, told the Kuwaiti AL-WATAN the history of Kuwaiti-Soviet relations over 20 years has shown firmly that they are continuously developing on the basis of the principles of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields.

On Kuwait's national day, the Soviet people express the confidence that the close cooperation between the two countries in the political and other fields will continue to serve the interests of the two peoples and the preservation and consolidation of world peace.

KUWAITI AMBASSADOR ON FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR

LD252246 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Taking part in our program is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the USSR 'Adil Najm ad-Din al-Jarrah.

[Al-Jarrah, in Arabic with superimposed translation] Dear friends, the State of Kuwait marks the 23d anniversary of its national holiday this year amid conditions of a sharply exacerbated world situation. The people of our country are striving with every effort to successfully overcome a difficult period in the history of the countries of the Arab world. Palestine is occupied. In Lebanon there is bloodshed, human casualties and terrible destruction. The Persian Gulf region is uneasy today. In connection with such a situation, our country has cancelled all holiday festivities connected with this glorious date. We are living in an anxious time, but when a man shares his thoughts and feelings with friends he finds consolidation there. We have learned of the bravery of Soviet people. When you were in mourning in connection with the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, you demonstrated not in words, but in deeds, that the grave loss had not weakened you strength and will.

Soviet people have now joined in even more firmly the struggle for justice, good and peace. The people and leaders of Kuwait wish Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko successes and prosperity.

Friends. Today as never before all countries need constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and respect for the particular nature of each other's development. I can say with all certainty that these principles describe the relations between our two states. We appraise highly continually developing and deepening friendship with the Soviet Union. We welcome sincerely the efforts your country is making in order to put an end to military conflict in the Persian Gulf which has been (?dragging on) for years already. In the event of foreign interference, a threat to general peace could arise in our region. This is why the efforts of the Soviet Union directed towards a just and all-embracing solution of the Palestinian and other problems of the Near East are so important. This is why we support the constructive and peaceful initiatives of your country.

I would like to make use of the opportunity, speaking to you today, to thank Soviet people and the government for their all-round support and aid to the Arab peoples and particularly the Palestinian people. Thank you for your attention.

[Announcer] You have been addressed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Soviet Union, 'Adil Najm ad-Din al-Jarrah.

BRIEFS

USSR-ALGERIAN COOPERATION COMMISSION -- Algiers, 25 Feb [TASS] -- The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Soviet-Algerian Standing Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation ended here today. The documents signed at it envisage continuation and further expansion of fruitful mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. Strengthening of trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union, declared Minister of Commerce of the Algerian People's Deomcratic Republic Abdelaziz Khellef, is a fundamental line of the Algerian political leadership, which was reaffirmed at the recent FLN Congress. The ninth session of the standing commission, the minister stressed, will give fresh impulse to this steadily developing Soviet-Algerian cooperation, which we greatly value. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1840 GMT 25 Feb 84]

SALVADORAN RESISTANCE SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED

PM241012 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with FMLN spokesman Comandante Ramiro Vazquez by IZVESTIYA correspondent Yevgeniy Bay -- date, place not given -- published under the rubric "IZVESTIYA's Interview": "El Salvador: With a Dynamite Charge Around the Neck" -- first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA editorial introduction]

[Text] The Salvadoran insurgents have occupied two settlements without encountering any resistance from the Army... The Salvadoran Armed Forces chief of staff has admitted that 11 of the country's regions are under the insurgents' permanent control... A special battalion trained in the United States has been forced to abandon the Department of Chalatenango, having failed to accomplish the combat tasks assigned to it... These are a few lines from the latest news on the situation in El Salvador, which is in the grip of the flames of war. Our Caribbean correspondent has interviewed Comandante Ramiro Vazquez, spokesman of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], who in 1983 headed the combat actions by the insurgents in one of the fiercest battle zones of the war.

Question: Comandante, what is your assessment of last year's results for the Salvadoran liberation movement?

Answer: Last year the FMLN succeeded in shattering the strategy of counterinsurgency combat elaborated by the Salvadoran Army staffs. Within the framework of this strategy, last year the regime decided to implement a number of propaganda measures whose purpose was, on the one hand, to whitewash itself in the eyes of the world public, and on the other, to neutralize the FMLN's social base in a number of the country's regions. For this purpose, they played out a pitiful spectacle of "urban renewal" in a few poor people's settlements. The result was two or three asphalted streets and... a handful of richer military, who lined their own pockets with money from the state treasury.

On the military side, the Army followed two basic directions. In the first place, it tried to dislodge us from the economically developed regions of the country, force us to move north, and encircle us there in a pincer movement with the Honduran Armed Forces. Second, they announced the establishment of four new special battalions, a kind of "rapid deployment force." These plans completely failed. The FMLN continues its active operations throughout the country, and about one-third of its entire territory with more than 60 cities and settlements under our permanent control. They managed to establish only one of the widely publicized "special purpose" battalions, which underwent training in Honduras. It suffered heavy casualties in its very first battle. Now there is no sign of it.

Question: How serious is the present threat of direct military intervention in El Salvador by the U.S. Armed Forces and the armies of neighboring countries where reactionary regimes are in power?

Answer: The U.S. strategists are aware that, unless they give outside assistance to the Salvadoran Army, it will be crushed. Under these conditions, the United States has started to unambiguously threaten us with armed aggression. The Pentagon's troops which landed on Honduras' Atlantic coast during joint maneuvers in that country are imperceptibly moving south toward the border with El Salvador. Honduran troops have started concentrating there at the same time. U.S. naval ships are approaching the Gulf of Fonseca. According to our information, the United States intends to make a landing on El Salvador's coast, making this operation look like "routine maneuvers." In actual fact this would be the start of intervention.

Question: How would you assess the forthcoming elections in El Salvador?

Answer: Over the last few months, the so-called "Constitutional Assembly" has turned into a real circus, where politicians wallowing in corruption continually attack one another and quite frequently organize real brawls. There is no agreement within the government, every one is stabbing his neighbor in the back, alleging inability to rule the country. Presumbly the election farce, whose purpose is to convince the U.S. Congress of the existence of "real democracy" in El Salvador, will turn into another duel between the Christian Democrats and ultrarightists. The main danger is that the United States could take advantage of the election farce to introduce its troops into the country on the pretext of "insuring order in the country."

Question: Please tell us about the combat operations in the Guazapa region, which you led.

Answer: For many months the Guazapa front was considered a defensive sector in FMLN combat operations, but starting last spring we moved onto the offensive there too. Our first operation on that front was the attack on the settlements of Cinguera, an advanced Army post with numerous fortifications. Its garrison consisted basically of members of the fascist-type paramilitary organization who committed atrocities against the people. However, we managed to capture Cinguera despite the ferocity of the resistance. As a result of this, the front moved considerably closer to the capital. In response to our successful actions, the Army is stepping up its repressions against the civilian population. Very often people are executed in entire families, and settlements turn into graveyards. The regime is furious because the civilian population is actively helping the insurgents. With the people's support, we have on several occasions entered the capital and fought in the suburbs of San Salvador. Guazapa has become a real dynamite charge hanging around the anti-people regime's neck.

ARGENTINE OFFER OF FALKLANDS TALKS NOTED

PM271105 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Feb 84 p 5

[TASS correspondent's report: "Argentina -- in Favor of Talks"]

[Text] Buenos Aires -- The Argentine Government is in favor of conducting talks with Britain with a view to settling the problem of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands and liquidating the hotbed of tension in the South Atlantic. Its latest proposals, presented to the British Foreign Office, point out the need to withdraw the British troops from the archipelago and lift the so-called "military zone" arbitrarily imposed by London around it.

As Argentine Foreign Minister D. Caputo declared in an interview with the newspaper CLARIN, published here, his country will not renounce its legitimate rights to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. He stressed that the agreement to start talks with Britain should not be seen as a tacit renunciation of sovereignty over the archipelago. We are gravely concerned also with the danger of nuclear weapons being sited there, the minister said.

GUYANA ENVOY SEES USSR TIES 'GROWING STRONGER'

LD240350 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newcast; vide talk by Phillip Nathaniel Chan, ambassador of Guyana -- in English with superimposed translation]

[Excerpts] "The people of Guyana today mark the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of their republic." Taking part in our program is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the USSR Phillip Nathaniel Chan:

[Chan] Dear comrades! [These two words said in Russian] Today Guyana celebrates its national holiday, and although the economic situation in the world has affected Guyana, the government and people of the country are fully determined to follow their chosen path of socialist development and reliance on their own resources. From his first steps in the international arena, the president of our country has stressed the need to create all the conditions required by the ordinary person, and noted that, if this is to be achieved, there must be a structural change in economics.

In the sphere of international relations, the past year has been, for many, a year of trial. Guyana can note with pride that thanks to its leadership, it has come through that difficult period with credit, without compromising its principles of nonalignment, and having strengthened its reputation. In our region, we cannot fail to be anxious about the events in Grenada. In that connection, the very existence, the movement for regional integration of the Caribbean countries, has been threatened. President Burnham, as you know, is not only one of the initiators of that movement, but one of its strongest supporters.

On a broader scale, Guyana's consistent foreign policy rests upon the firm positions of the struggle against fascism, racism, apartheid, and neocolonialism. We support the national liberation movements and the legitimate aspirations of all peoples fighting for freedom and independence. We advocate the sovereign equality and mutual respect of all nations. That is why we are against the policy of intervention, any violations of borders, and any form of aggression, especially military, as a means of solving international disputes. We support all initiatives that may make the situation on earth more peaceful and lessen the danger of the ever-growing stockpiles of arms, especially nuclear arms, making the world a place of equality and justice for all.

In crucial international questions, Guyana finds itself more and more often on the same side as the Soviet Union, since the striving of both countries to achieve the prosperity of our people coincides, our contacts are growing stronger in all respects. The past year has been a year of all-around development of Soviet-Guyanese relations; it is our hope that 1984 will be still more successful. Long live friendship between the Soviet Union and Guyana. Thank you for your attention.

CASTRO ADDRESS TO TRADE UNION CONGRESS NOTED

LD250828 Moscow TASS in English 0711 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Havana February 25 TASS -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the republic, has addressed the closing session of the 15th congress of Cuba's trade union center with a big speech.

The Cuban leader gave an in-depth analysis of the activity of trade union organizations, stressing their immense role in production and public life of the country.

On international problems, Fidel Castro criticised the aggressive policy of imperialism which placed the world at the brink of thermonuclear catastrophe.

CHERNENKO LETTER OF THANKS FOR ELECTION, UNITY

PM281215 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

["Cordial Thanks" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] I am expressing cordial gratitude to the party and state bodies, the Soviet and public organisations, work collectives of enterprises, offices, construction projects, collective and state farms, educational establishments, servicemen of the Soviet Army and Navy, party veterans and Great Patriotic War veterans, all the Soviet citizens, who congratulated me on the election as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The Central Committee of the CPSU, the Politbureau of the Central Committee will firmly implement the party's general line, which was drawn up at the 26th congress of the CPSU, creatively developed and enriched at the subsequent plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the CPSU, ensure confident advance of our country in all directions of economic and social progress. The party's determination to follow undeviatingly Lenin's path, the close consolidation of its ranks, the indestructible unity of the party and the people was convincingly demonstrated by the February (1984) plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

I am deeply grateful to the leaders of the socialist states, the fraternal communist and workers' parties for their cordial congratulations. I wish to assure all foreign comrades and friends that the CPSU and the Soviet state will strive for an all-round broadening of cooperation with all the socialist countries, actively contribute to strengthening the positions and influence of the socialist countries in the world arena. The Soviet Communists, who are invariably loyal to the principle of proletarian internationalism, will further strengthen the solidarity of the world communist and workers movement, their close ties with foreign fighters for the interests and rights of the working people, independence and freedom of peoples.

I am expressing sincere gratitude to the heads of states and governments, statesmen and public figures, citizens of foreign countries for the congratulations addressed to me. I wish to reaffirm that the Soviet Union, which is invariably loyal to the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, will consistently work for a peaceful solution of all international problems, actively cooperate with all states, which are ready to assist through practical deeds towards lessening international tensions, creating and strengthening in the world an atmosphere of trust, towards developing mutually beneficial cooperation between states in all continents.

K. Chernenko

GROMYKO ADDRESSES MINSK-MOSKOVSKIY ELECTORATE

PM271645 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report under the rubric "Working People's Election meetings": "For Peace and the Peoples' Security; Voters' Meeting with A.A. Gromyko"]

[Text] Those taking part in the 27 February meeting of the voters of Minsk's Moskovskiy Electoral Okrug with their candidate deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet

Soviet of the Union, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR foreign minister, expressed their sincere thanks to the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet state which are performing a tremendous amount of work to preserve and strengthen peace and to implement the peace program for the eighties adopted by the 26th CPSU Congress.

The meeting was opened by G.S. Tarazevich, first secretary of the Minsk Belorussian Communist Party Gorkom.

An honorary presidium consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was enthusiastically elected.

The candidate deputy's agent, L.I. Kisilevskiy, rector of the Belorussian V.I. Lenin State University and member of the Belorussian Academy of Sciences, described A.A. Gromyko's career and his contribution to the elaboration and implementation of our country's foreign policy initiatives and urged the voters to give their votes unanimously for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

The meeting was addressed by T.G. Safonova, operator at the Minmedpreparaty Production Association; B.A. Savchenko, first secretary of Minsk's Moskovskiy Raykom; Hero of Socialist Labor S.F. Akulich, leader of a team of electrical installation workers at the industrial housing construction production association; I.V. Kirik, teacher at the No 127 Secondary School; B.V. Poznyak, general director of the Luch Footwear Production Association; and T.P. Dyobkova, student at the medical institute.

The speakers spoke of the unanimous approval of working people's collectives for the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum which confirmed the principled course of our party and state toward sparing mankind from the threat of world nuclear war and consolidating the peoples' trust, mutual understanding, and cooperation. They stressed that our people are in favor of the peaceful solution of vexed international issues through negotiations. Equality and identical security, noninterference in each other's internal affairs -- those are the principles of relations between countries to which the USSR has adhered and will continued to adhere.

The years which have elapsed since the previous elections, the speakers noted, have been filled with Soviet people's constructive labor. The CPSU's policy is a policy of the further strengthening of the alliance of workers, peasants, and intelligentsia, of the all-round consolidation of the friendship and fraternity of the peoples of the multinational fatherland.

The Minsk people, like all Soviet people, state their readiness to give their votes for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people and to devote all their efforts and energy for the successful implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums.

The consolidation of our motherland's economic and defense might is a reliable guarantee of peace and the peoples' security.

A.A. Gromyko, who was warmly welcomed by the voters, delivered a speech at the meeting. he said:

Your trust is primarily a manifestation of complete approval of the activity of the CPSU, its Central Committee, and Politburo. It is confirmation of the fact that our party's Leninist domestic and foreign policy accords with Soviet people's aspirations and enjoys their support.

The positive processes which have been taking place recently in all spheres of the Soviet people's lives are connected with the name and activity of Yu.V. Andropov, who has prematurely left us. His name will remain forever in the history of our country, in the Soviet people's memory.

The extraordinary CPSU Central Committee plenum unanimously elected Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The party and people unanimously supported this decision, knowing Comrade K.U. Chernenko as an unswerving fighter for the implementation of the party's policy who devotes all his organizational talent and multifaceted party experience to this cause.

K.U. Chernenko's speech at the plenum reflected our party's firm determination to go forward along a Leninist path and the continuity of its course in implementing the tasks of the further consolidation of our motherland's economic and defense might, the improvement of the people's well-being, and the consolidation of peace on earth. This document of great political importance clearly defines the main sectors of work and ways of resolving the key problems of the present and future.

Over the 5-year period which has elapsed since the previous elections the CPSU's political course has been implemented. The 26th congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee Plenums developed and gave specific form to the party's present-day strategy -- the strategy of improving mature socialism. The party's efforts have been concentrated on making better and fuller use of our system's advantages and potential.

The Soviet socialist republics have rallied together into a single family. They include the Belorussian SSR. The Communists and all workers of the republic's cities and villages -- and this is borne out by the recent Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee plenum -- are fully determined to tackle the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum and to tackle them honorably.

It is with particular satisfaction that I convey to you and all the republic's working people greetings and good wishes from Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, who has expressed the firm conviction that Soviet Belorussia will continue to make a worthy contribution to the country's overall labor.

The Belorussian working people are greeting the elections with good indicators in the field of socioeconomic and cultural life. I warmly congratulate the republic's working people on the award of the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee for its results in all-union socialist competition in 1983 and I wish that you may carry on like that in the future.

Our country's voice has an authoritative, weighty ring in the international arena. The party and the Soviet Government are doing as much as possible to safeguard Soviet people's peaceful living and working conditions.

The USSR's foreign policy course is not subject to fluctuations dictated by expediency. The profoundly peace-loving nature of the Soviet Union's foreign policy is backed up by the decisions of our party's congresses and the USSR Constitution.

The all-around deepening of the fraternal countries' cohesion on the basis of the principle of socialist internationalism has been and remains the priority direction of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

The further improvement of political collaboration, of which the Warsaw Pact Organization -- the reliable defensive shield of the socialist community -- is the most important instrument, promotes the effectiveness of our cooperation. The CEMA countries' economic potential is growing. The emergence at a qualitatively new level of economic integration is on the agenda. In consolidating our cohesion with the fraternal socialist countries we are thereby making a big contribution to the cause of world peace.

We will seek to continue to expand cooperation with all socialist countries.

Certain positive changes have recently been noted in Soviet-Chinese ties. We advocate the further improvement of relations with the PRC. This will benefit the peoples of both countries and also serve to improve the political climate in the world as a whole.

The situation in the world remains complex and at times tense. The adventurist actions of imperialism's aggressive forces are the source of tension. The present American Administration has set itself the aim of upsetting, in the United States' favor, the military-strategic equilibrium which has come about, securing dominant positions in the world for the United States, and dictating its will to others by relying on force. It is seeking to clamber up the world's highest turret and to issue commands to everyone from there. The policy of the crazy arms race and of crude pressure, including pressure involving the use of armed force against sovereign states, is aimed at achieving these ends. Such an aggressive political course is shaking the foundations of peace.

The danger of war has increased seriously as a result of the deployment of new American nuclear weapons in West Europe. These actions blew up the Geneva talks aimed at limiting and substantially reducing nuclear arms. Grave responsibility for this turn of events and for their consequences is borne not only by the United States but also by its NATO allies, which opened the way into Europe for the American Pershing and cruise missiles against the will of their own peoples. The situation forces us jointly with our Warsaw Pact allies to ensure that the defense capability is maintained at the proper level. The Soviet Union does not need military superiority. We do not seek it. But we will not allow the disruption of the military equilibrium which has been achieved. Our country and its leadership have repeatedly stated this. In so doing we are fulfilling the Soviet people's chief mandate -- to ensure peace. This was and still is the general course of our policy.

Assertions that nothing special is happening in the international situation and that peace has supposedly become more secure with American missiles in Europe have been circulating for some time. The purpose of this deliberate distortion of reality is obvious -- to dull the vigilance of the European and the world public.

By all accounts, considerations dictated by the U.S. election campaign also play a part of some importance in this.

The candidate of the currently ruling Republican Party very much wants to appear respectable in the eyes of public opinion. Otherwise the voters might vote for the other party's candidate.

Alarm among millions of people, antiwar demonstrations in many countries -- this is the indicator of their attitude toward the NATO leaders' militarist policy. This cannot now be disregarded even by those who quite recently were still inclined to repeat after Washington that the deployment of the American missiles would result in the strengthening of the NATO countries' security.

The Soviet Union advocates reaching accords on limiting and reducing nuclear arms in accordance with the principle of equality and identical security. Neither side, by its policy and its actions, must upset the equilibrium which has become established in the nuclear arms sphere. We are prepared on this basis -- I repeat, on this basis -- also to resolve the problem of nuclear arms in Europe.

The Soviet Union's proposals for reducing the nuclear missile confrontation in Europe are well known and retain their forces in full. One thing is necessary -- the United States and NATO must show readiness to return to the situation which existed prior to the start of the American missile deployment.

The USSR's policy of ending the race for nuclear and other arms and reducing them remains immutable. For progress along this path, however, it is important for the West to have a similar desire. We do not yet observe it.

Just as hitherto, the Soviet Union and its leadership are not relaxing and will not relax their efforts aimed at warding off from mankind the threat of war and improving the international situation. This is the chief task facing mankind today. No country must remain aloof from the struggle to resolve it.

Is it possible to achieve a favorable turn in international affairs? Our reply is simple: Yes, it is possible. There is no people on earth which wants war. The peoples want peace, and they want confidence that a catastrophe will never break. It is appropriate to recall that the overwhelming majority of states at the United Nations approved the declaration condemning nuclear war and the resolutions on freezing nuclear arms and preventing an arms race in space, which were drawn up on the initiative of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. This is a good reply to the question of which policy accords with the interests of the countries and peoples and which policy is alien and hostile to them.

Asian, African, and Latin American countries are displaying growing activeness in championing peace. We respect the policy of countries which belong to the Nonaligned Movement an influential antiwar, anti-imperialist force of modern times.

The Soviet Union is open to peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation with states of all continents. Both previously and today our country advocates the peaceful resolution of disputed problems by means of serious, equitable talks.

Even under complicated conditions, states with different social systems have the potential for reaching mutually acceptable accords. This is how we evaluate the successful conclusion of the Madrid meeting, and this is how we view the prospect of the work of the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures. The very convening of the conference indicates that the ideas of detente are alive in Europe and that its pulse makes itself known and heard.

Together with its allies the USSR has put forward major initiatives in Stockholm with a view to creating an atmosphere of confidence, which has been seriously undermined by the policy and actions of the U.S. Administration and the NATO bloc.

If all nuclear powers adopted a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, as the Soviet Union has done, this would signify a virtual ban on the use of nuclear weapons. And this would be an effective confidence-building measure in the present situation.

The socialist countries' joint proposal to conclude a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Pact and North Atlantic alliance states is becoming increasingly urgent. Would not a pledge not to use any weapons -- either nuclear or conventional -- help to dispel mutual fears and mistrust?

The proposals of the Soviet Union and its allies encroach upon no one. They are equally advantageous to everyone. We expect Western countries to respond to them and work together with us for the good of peace.

We proceed from the premise that real opportunities exist for a serious discussion of the problems whose resolution would improve the situation in the world, correct the dangerous list in world affairs, and return them to the channel of normal development.

The Soviet Union has put forward other initiatives of fundamental significance in key spheres of international politics.

The USSR is proposing that a simple and at the same time effective step be taken to reduce the danger of war, which is to freeze nuclear armaments. A fine, solid word -- freeze. For a start this could be done by the Soviet Union and the United States. Why is Washington reluctant to do it? After all, one is already up to one's neck, figuratively speaking, in nuclear arsenals, which no one can deny.

We have made concrete proposals on how to avert the threat of the use of force from space and in space. And because of Washington's policy this danger is creeping up on mankind. Once again we call upon the United States to start talks on this question forthwith.

The socialist countries have put forward a proposal on ridding Europe of chemical weapons. One would like to hope that this important matter will not be left in abeyance.

A detailed draft agreement proposed by the Warsaw Pact states lies on the table at the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. There has been no response to it as yet. We will soon know whether the Western countries intend to earnestly embark on elaborating accords on a mutually acceptable basis. At the moment the Western countries are simply being obstructive at the Vienna forum. Washington has certainly become adept at pursuing an obstructionist line.

We are maintaining our tension is not dying down, but rather the opposite. Who is to blame for the bloodshed in Lebanon, for the constant threat of the widening of the conflict? The responsibility lies with the countries which encouraged and which are continuing to foster aggression against the Arab peoples and who have themselves embarked on the path of aggression.

The United States has scotched the business of settlement in the region. No objective observer would believe that a breakthrough can be made by the guns of U.S. battleships, by military interference by Marines.

The Soviet Union is proposing a path of political settlement in the Near East which justly considers the interests of all sides. To this end we have submitted a proposal on convening a special international conference. This proposal stands. The Soviet Union is ready for active cooperation for the purpose of a lasting and just Near East settlement.

In short, we do not need to be convinced of the benefit and advisability of talks. The Soviet Union has always believed that negotiations are a necessary and indispensable business, be it the Near East, southern Africa, the Caribbean or the question of nuclear armaments and the need to reduce them.

But there are negotiations and negotiations. Arguments about conducting them from a position of strength, that is, dictating terms to others, distort the very concept. It makes a mockery of them. Talks are an honest exchange of views between partners in order to reach by political means mutually acceptable accords compatible with the cause of peace.

Experience of conducting international affairs in this way has been accumulated. Despite different social systems and ideologies and despite all the differences in foreign policy orientation, the Soviet Union is developing multifaceted relations with many countries, including relations in the trade and economic sphere.

It is not our choice that the state of Soviet-American relations should be characterized by tension. Their deterioration and exacerbation is due to the actions of the present U.S. Administration.

This administration has done much to disrupt and, moreover, destroy what was done by its predecessors; it has worked, if one can put it in that way, with a big stick battering one agreement and then another. In fact, little remains of what was done previously by the two sides -- the Soviet Union and the United States -- in their common interests, of course, it is easier to destroy, easier to capsize agreements that we achieved by others. It doesn't take a special effort. All you need is a good helping of recklessness and irresponsibility.

Pronouncements in favor of improving relations between the USSR and the United States are audible at the moment in Washington. Even at official level. But it is difficult to trust such pronouncements. The U.S. Administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it regards such statements as having little value. Of course, one would hope that the recent pronouncements are not empty words, that they are not the product of an election situation. We will judge whether the United States has serious intentions from its practical actions, of course.

If the U.S. Administration is prepared to adopt a more realistic stance in international affairs and on questions of relations with the Soviet Union, then first of all the concept of a "crusade" against socialism, which is still current in Washington, must be discarded. The authors of this intrepid, albeit crude concept have succeeded in creating great merriment. The foundation of interstate relations should comprise the common interests of states which consist in resolving all disputes and differences exclusively be peaceful means. Peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems -- this is also the foundation on which to build relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Soviet Union always advocates even, normal relations with the United States.

They must be based on observance of the principles of equality and identical security, consideration of one another's legitimate interests and noninterference in one another's internal affairs. A display by the U.S. side of readiness to abide by these principles would make it possible to set about straightening out relations between the two countries.

Broad and boundless is the sphere in which one can work to strengthen peace. Our country will cooperate fully with all states which are prepared to actually facilitate a reduction in international tension and create an atmosphere of trust in the world. This principled approach pervaded K.U. Chernenko's meetings and conversations with the statesmen of foreign countries following the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

As far as the Soviet leadership is concerned there is no problem about what line to follow in international affairs. "The Leninist peace policy, whose main traits are determined at the present stage of history by the decisions of the recent CPSU Congresses," K.U. Chernenko stressed at the recent CPSU Central Committee plenum, "accords with the fundamental interests of the Soviet people, and, essentially, of the other peoples of the world. And we can definitely say that we will not deviate one step from this policy."

Soviet people are approaching the USSR Supreme Soviet elections closely united around the Communist Party and its Central Committee. The Communist Party is confidently leading our country along the path of Lenin. The party has no other interests than the interests of the people. It always has been, is and always will be motivated in its activity by concern for the welfare of Soviet people and for the flourishing of our state.

SUPREME SOVIET ELECTION PROCEDURES OUTLINED

PM271703 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed commentary under the rubric "Our Consultations": "At the Concluding Stage"]

[Text] There is not much time left until USSR Supreme Soviet election day. Special care must be taken once again to check whether everything is ready for 4 March.

Wherever they are on election day -- on polar or hydrometeorological stations, on scientific expeditions, in geological and surveying parties, on ships at sea, at sea or river ports, at airports, at railroad stations, on long-distance trains, in sanatoriums and rest homes, on tourist trips, and so forth -- voters must have the opportunity to take part in the voting.

Let us recall: If a citizen leaves on a business trip or on vacation or is moving on the eve of election day, he must take a certificate showing his right to vote -- these are issued by the ward [uchastkovyy] electoral commission. On the basis of this certificate the voter will be included on an additional list in any electoral ward. It may happen, for some reason or other, that a person does not get a certificate. As an exception, he can be listed either before or on election day on the basis of a written declaration.

The list of such voters is compiled as an appendix to the main list and signed by the chairman and secretary of the relevant soviet ispolkom.

Citizens are currently familiarizing themselves with the voting lists in the electoral wards.

The lists are the documents on the basis of which the ward electoral commissions issue ballot papers for secret voting. The shape and color of the ballot papers have been approved by the Central Electoral Commission. The ballot papers are white for the Soviet of the Union election, pale blue for the election to the Soviet of Nationalities from the union republics, and pink for the election to the Soviet of Nationalities from the autonomous republics, autonomous oblasts, and autonomous okrugs.

Electoral commissions must take special pains to check that the electoral documentation is on hand and to see that the candidate deputy's surname, first name, and patronymic are printed correctly on the ballot papers, that there are seals to seal up the ballot boxes, that communications are functioning well, and so forth.

The ballot papers must be delivered to all ward electoral commissions not later than 5 days before the election, that is, no later than 27 February.

The ward electoral commissions which are at major railroad stations, sea and river ports, and airports must be provided with a sufficient quantity of ballot papers. The members of these commissions must know the arrival schedules of trains, sea and river vessels, and planes beforehand. More than 400 long-distance trains, thousands of sea and river vessels, and hundreds of planes will be en route in the country on election day. And all passengers, crews, and teams must be provided with the most convenient conditions for voting. In the remaining few days voters must be once again widely notified of the locations and times of voting.

Premises where voting will take place must be prepared beforehand. The booths, the ballot boxes, and the tables where the ballot papers are issued must be set out correctly and conveniently, lighting must be checked, and tables, chairs, and pencils must be provided in the booths and rooms for secret voting. The ward electoral commission is responsible for preparing the premises for the elections and also for organizing the voting and ensuring order. It must establish in advance the route for voters to take into the voting premises, specify the duties of each member of the commission beforehand, and determine which of its members issues the ballot papers, keeps the additional list of voters, and provides information and explanations on election day.

Each voter votes for himself. Voting is not permitted through other people. Each voter is guaranteed voting secrecy. While filling in the ballot paper it is forbidden for anybody else to be present in the booth or the voting room except the voter himself. If a voter is not capable of filling in the ballot paper on his own, he may invite another person at his own discretion into the booth or room, excepting members of the electoral commission. No election agitation is permitted on voting premises.

Transportation must be provided for voters who for health reasons cannot reach the voting premises themselves. The ward commission may also receive ballot papers from these citizens on the spot. In such cases the commission sends one or several commission members to them with a smaller ballot box. Voting can also be organized for individual groups of voters -- when there are at least three people in the group -- who are in remote or virtually inaccessible regions of the country and have no opportunity to reach a electoral ward because of communication conditions.

As is known, voting continues from 0600 to 2200 hours local time. It cannot be concluded earlier than 2200 hours even if all voters inscribed on the lists in the electoral ward have voted, because voters could arrive with certificates granting them voting rights. Voting can only be concluded before the set time on ships at sea and in military units and also in electoral wards located in remote and virtually inaccessible regions, which it is impossible for voters with voting rights certificates to reach on election day because of communication conditions.

A ward electoral commission can unseal the ballot boxes and begin the count once the commission chairman declares the voting ended. Representatives of public organizations, labor collectives, the press, television, and radio may be present while the votes are counted. Before opening the ballot boxes, all unissued ballot papers must be cancelled by the ward electoral commission. They can be cancelled by puncturing, stamping, tearing the corner, and so forth. It is important to be able to distinguish between the cancelled papers and the papers put in the ballot boxes.

The news of the results of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections and the list of elected deputies will be published in the press by the Central Electoral Commission -- in accordance with the law -- no later than the 7th day after the elections, that is, no later than 11 March.

VOROTNIKOV CHAIRS RSFSR GOVERNMENT SESSION

PM271134 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] The RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium has examined the question of increasing the volume of contractual work done by organizations within the systems of the republic's Ministry of Rural Construction and the All-Russian Association for Interkolkhoz Construction Organizations in the Nonchernozem Zone and on the consolidation and efficient utilization of their production base. It was noted that a considerable lag has been allowed to occur in the fulfillment of plans for the construction and commissioning of agricultural projects. The shortfall in work completion in 1981-1983 amounted to hundreds of millions of rubles. The targets for labor productivity growth have not been met, and the quality of construction work is poor. This situation is the result of poor organization of affairs and omissions in the style and methods of management.

Having examined the question of the progress of preparatory work in kolkhozes and sovkhozes for the spring sowing and the wintering of livestock in the Dagestan ASSR, the RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium noted serious shortcomings in the organization of these works. The soviet and agricultural organs and a large number of departments in Dagestan have failed to show the due concern for the complete readiness of equipment, irrigation networks, and hydrotechnical installations and for the development of seed selection. The necessary measures have not been taken to increase the output and procurements of livestock products.

The resolutions that were adopted outline specific ways to eliminate the shortcomings and make fuller use of reserves.

There was discussion of proposals by ministries and departments and local soviet organs submitted in connection with the drafting of a comprehensive program for the development of consumer goods production and the system of services for the population in the 1986-2000 period.

The session was chaired by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

GRISHIN LAUDS CHERNENKO IN MOSCOW PLENUM SPEECH

PM241622 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "To Enhance Organization and Order: Moscow CPSU Gorkom Plenum"]

[Excerpt] A Moscow CPSU Gorkom plenum was held yesterday, with Moscow's party and economic aktiv taking part in its work. The plenum examined the question "On the results of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary February (1984) Plenum and the tasks of the Moscow City party organization stemming from the plenum speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee."

V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, delivered a report at the plenum.

The following spoke during the debate on the question under discussion: V.A. Zharov, first secretary of the Timiryazevskiy CPSU Raykom; V.A. Zatvornitskiy, leader of an integrated team at the No 6 Construction Administration of No 1 "Mosstroy" Trust under the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Adminstration for Housing and Civil Construction; V.A. Peshkov, party committee secretary at the V.V. Kuybyshev Electrical Engineering Plant; V.P. Shcherbakov, general director of the 50-Letiye SSR Production Association for the Manufacture of Automatic Lines and Specialized Machine Tools; V.M. Gridneva, weaver at the "Oktyabr" Worsted Production Association; Ye.V. Armenskiy, dean of the Moscow Electronic Machine Building Institute; M.V. Smirnova, director of the No 655 School; and P.P. Khilkevich, first secretary of the Sverdlovskiy CPSU Raykom.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the question under discussion.

The plenum participants adopted with great enthusiasm a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The plenum appointed V.A. Yermolov chief of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom's Transport and Communications Department, and A.A. Vankov chief of the Moccow CPSU Gorkom Construction and Construction Materials Department.

Taking part in the plenum's work were V.I. Konotop, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Obkom; M.S. Lazarev, department chief at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational and Party Work Department; N.S. Chernikh, department chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department; and V.I. Konstantinov, instructor at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational and Party Work Department.

Our party and all Soviet people, V.V. Grishin said, have suffered a heavy loss -- the untimely death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Many emotional words were spoken about Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov in the days of nationwide mourning. Mourning meetings were held in the capital's enterprises, institutions, and educational establishments. They offered convincing proof that the Muscovites, like all Soviet people, in their profound sorrow have rallied even more closely round the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee.

Our sorrow was shared by the peoples, and the governments of most countries in the world conveyed condolences and sent their representatives to Yu.V. Andropov's funeral.

As you know, an extraordinary Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee was held on 13 February 1984. The participants in the plenum honored Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's memory with 1 minute's silence for mourning. The Central Committee plenum noted his outstanding services to the party and the country. An outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, ardent patriot, Leninist, and indefatigable fighter for peace and communism has departed this life.

The plenum examined the question of electing a general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade N.A. Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, delivered a speech on this question at the instructions of the Central Committee Politburo. He proposed that Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko be elected general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade N.A. Tikhonov described Comrade K.U. Chernenko as an outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, talented organizer of the masses, ardent propagandist of Marxist-Leninist ideas, and steadfast fighter for the implementation of our great party's policy.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's biography has been published in the press. He has passed through a great school of life, for many years holding leading party positions in the Krasnoyarsk, Penza, and Moldavian party organizations, and he also worked in the CPSU Central Committee.

From 1966-1971, he was a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and then full member of the Central Committee. Since 1976 he has been secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and from 1977 he was candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. In 1978 he was made a member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

While working in the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, Konstantin Ustinovich has done much to develop and assert a Leninist style of party and state leadership, which is distinguished by profound understanding of the key issues of social development, a realistic approach toward the evaluation of achievements and unresolved problems, high exactingness toward cadres, and simultaneously a benevolent attitude toward them and reliance on work people's initiative and experience.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko has played a prominent role in the elaboration of major theoretical problems concerning the improvement of developed socialist society and the creation of an integral concept of the CPSU's ideological activity for the long time. Konstantin Ustinovich is greatly involved with questions of strengthening the country's defense capability and consolidating its Armed Forces.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko actively participates in determining the strategic directions of our peace-loving foreign policy and the CPSU's activity to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the international communist and workers movement.

The CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum unanimously [yedinoglasno] elected Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in an atmosphere of complete accord [yedinodushiye] and cohesion.

Afterwards, warmly greeted by the participants, Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, addressed the plenum.

He expressed heartfelt thanks for the great trust shown in him by the party Central Committee. Comrade K.U. Chernenko assured the CPSU Central Committee and the Communist Party that he will apply all his strength, knowledge, and experience of life to successfully implementing the tasks of communist building in our country and ensuring the continuity of the 26th CPSU Congress course aimed at further consolidating the USSR's economic and defense might, raising the Soviet people's prosperity, strengthening peace, and implementing the domestic and foreign policy tasks of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

The plenum took place in an atmosphere of high responsibility, unity, and cohesion of the entire membership of the CPSU Central Committee and demonstrated its loyalty to the great banner of Marxism-Leninism and its resolve to continue implementing the Leninist domestic and foreign policy, striving to further improve the society of developed socialism, and waging an active and purposeful struggle to strengthen peace and prevent nuclear war.

Numerous meetings and rallies on the results of the CPSU Central Committee plenum have been held in Moscow, just as they have been all over the country. The Communists and all working people unanimously approve the results of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's election as general secrtary of the CPSU Central Committee, and they voice their conviction that Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee will worthily head our party's Leninist staff.

The results of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's election have been greeted with approval by the leaders of fraternal parties and socialist states and by representatives of progressive liberated countries and the international communist and workers movement, who note that the cause for which Yu.V. Andropov struggled is in reliable hands.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum andin his address at the Red Square funeral meeting, V.V. Grishin went on, Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, dwelled on the major problems concerning our society's further socioeconomic development. He outlined a precise program of practical actions for the successful implementation of the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums in the domestic and foreign policy spheres.

Analyzing in detail the main provisions in the plenum speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, V.V. Grishin noted that it is now important for all party organizations and all labor collectives to engage in propaganda, explanatory, and organizational work on the CPSU Central Committee plenum materials. This campaign must be conducted in such a way as to rally the Communists and all of Moscow's working people even more closely round the Leninist Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko.

The party meetings which are to be held in all organizations must examine in detail the questions of party leadership on the economy, the state of affairs in party organizational work, and the further consolidation of party ranks and party ties with the masses, and questions of developing internal party democracy and improving ideological and political education work in the light of the tasks set by Comrade K.U. Chernenko in his plenum speech.

It is necessary to evaluate from a principled and exacting position the state of affairs in work in all sectors of economic and social building and outline specific measures to substantially improve the state of affairs in industry, construction, transportation, and other national economic sectors.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted in his speech at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum that the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum comprehensively assessed the state of affairs in the sphere of the country's socioeconomic development, especially emphasizing that the important thing now is to maintain the pace that has been gathered and the general mood for the practical solution of tasks, and to steadily raise the level of party and state leadership of the economy.

The 25th Moscow City CPSU organization conference held in January analyzed the results of the city's economic development in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan and set the tasks for the next period. The main result is that the capital's working people successfully fulfilled the targets for the 5-Year Plan's first 3 years.

The City of Moscow has been awarded the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee for the high results scored in the all-union socialist competition in 1983 and in the preceding 2 years of the 5-year plan. This high prize has been awarded to Kuybyshevskiy and Proleatrskiy Rayons and to 107 collectives of Moscow associations, enterprises, and organizations.

The current year, 1984, must to a large extent become the determining year for the successful implementation of the 11th 5-Year Plan tasks. The annual plan for industry sets strenuous targets. The rates of growth of production volume and labor productivity in the city's industry must more than double by comparison with the preceding year. High rates of development are envisaged for machine building, instrument building, radio engineering, the electronics industry, and other sectors which determine scientific and technical progress.

The plan provides for a further increase in the production of consumer goods, the expansion and updating of their range, and implementation of measures to fulfill the Food Program.

Much work has to be done on the commissioning of new production capacities, the modernization and retooling of existing enterprises, the automation of production, and the reduction of the volume of manual labor. It is necessary to ensure further improvements in the quality of output and the more rational utilization of all types of resources. Strenuous targets have been set for the further development of transportation in the capital.

In order to successfully fulfill the 1984 plan, it is important to concentrate the attention of party organizations, economic leaders, and labor collectives on the pivotal questions of economic development and to continue the line of improving economic management and attaining the highest possible results. By making maximum use of existing reserves, it is necessary to create at each enterprise the conditions necessary for considerably raising labor productivity and on this basis ensure the successful fulfillment of the 1984 plan and the 11th 5-Year Plan.

In this connection, exceptionally great significance attaches to the initiative of the city's leading enterprises concerning the adoption of counterplans and socialist pledges for 1984 for additional labor productivity growth of at least 1 percent and a reduction in the prime cost of output by 0.5 percent and ensuring 1.5 or 2-shifts utilization of basic equipment.

This initiative, which has been approved by the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau, has been widely supported by the city's labor collectives. The task of the gorkom, party raykoms, and party organizations is to ensure that the party's instructions are fulfilled and to strive to achieve the planned labor productivity growth and reduction in the prime cost of output. The successful implementation of the 1984 socialist pledges and counterplans adopted by Moscow's working people will be a major contribution to the cause of meeting the current year's targets and fulfilling the plan for the first 4 years of the 5-year plan as a whole.

V.V. Grishin went on to analyze in detail the results of the city industry's work in January 1984 He stressed that the industrial enterprises have on the whole managed to meet the prescribed targets. The plan for the total volume of output and labor productivity has been fulfilled.

At first glance, V.V. Grishin said, the results of work in January would appear positive. But we must examine them bearing in mind the targets set by the party over and above the plan and the socialist pledges given by Muscovites for 1-percent labor productivity growth and a 0.5-percent reduction in the prime cost of output in excess of the plan figures.

In this light, it is clear that the start which has been made in the current year's first month will be inadequate to ensure the fulfillment of these targets and pledges. Labor productivity growth stood at 2.4 percent while, bearing the socialist pledges in mind, it should have been 3.2 percent. The labor productivity plan was not fulfilled by 32 enterprises. The collectives of 33 associations and enterprises have pledged to raise labor productivity by less than 1 percent in excess of plan.

The socialist pledges in some enterprises have been drawn up only formally, without being backed up by pledges by workers, teams, sections, and shops or by specific measures which would ensure that labor productivity increases by 1 percent in excess of plan.

It is not everywhere that people have shown the due responsibility for the party target, formulated at the December plenum, to reduce the prime cost of output by 0.5 percent. The collectives of 61 enterprises have planned a less than 0.5-percent additional reduction in the prime cost of output.

All this has a negative effect on the fulfillment of pledges for labor productivity growth and prime cost reductions in excess of plan by Moscow's industry as a whole.

The party attaches great significance to the movement for 1-percent labor productivity growth and a 0.5-percent reduction in prime cost in excess of plan. This was said yet again at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum. This is why we must not allow this most important work to just drift along. Each enterprise must elaborate and implement specific organizational, technical, economic, and social measures to enhance the efficiency of production, giving special attention to the improved utilization of production capacities and the automation and mechanization of production.

The transfer of basic equipment to a 1.5 or 2-shift system of operation is a major reserve for raising efficiency. In 1983 the shift index of production equipment in basic production processes at the city's enterprises was only 1.4.

The Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau recently approved the initiative of a number of leading collectives of Moscow industrial enterprises to transfer basic equipment to a 2-shift system of operation in 1984. This initiative must spread everywhere. For this purpose, it is necessary to launch organizational and mass political work to mobilize labor collectives to comprehensively improve the utilization of basic equipment, to implement its transition to a 1.5 or 2-shift system of operation, and to ensure the widespread development of the team form of labor organization and incentives. It is necessary to comprehensively promote the development of the movement for multi-machine operators, the expansion of areas served by operators, the expansion of areas served by operators, the combining of related trades, and the competition for achieving larger output volumes with smaller work force. The creation of the production and living conditions necessary for highly productive labor by the workers must be ensured.

In order to fulfill the pledges for a 0.5-percent reduction in the prime cost of output in excess of plan, it is necessary to elaborate and implement everywhere additional measures for saving raw and other materials and fuel and energy resources, reducing labor expenditure, eliminating nonproductive expenditures and losses, and striving to introduce progressive norms of resource consumption.

The results of industry's work show that quite a few breaches of state, plan, and labor discipline ocurred in January. There were 100 enterprises which failed to cope with the fulfillment of contractual obligations. The bad practice of downward revision of plans continued. Twenty-nine of the city's enterprises failed to cope with the January plan for the total volume of output sales.

January's work was particularly unsatisfactory at the No 1 State Ball-Bearing Plant (Director Comrade Tkachenko), the tool plant (Director Comrade Petrovich), the "Mosselmash" Plant (Director Comrade Vereshchakov), the "Kozhgalantereya" (Directory Comrade Zhigareva), the Semenovskaya Textile Finishing Factory (Director Comrade Radman), and the "Vympel" Tailoring Association (General Director Comrade Troshin).

The main reasons for the nonfulfillment of the set tasks, V.V. Grishin stressed, are blunders in organizing production and internal plant planning, poor executive discipline, and the slack work of economic leaders and party organizations. They have failed to prepare for work this year and have failed to take the necessary steps for the better use of existing production capacities and manpower resources. Work on the consolidation of labor discipline slackened off.

The relevant ministries, which have allowed annual plans to be unevenly spread among quarters and months, frequently unjustifiably supported proposals for amending plans, and failed to ensure an improvement in material and technical supplies, are largely to blame for the shortcomings in Moscow enterprises' work. This applies to the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, the Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and the USSR Ministry of Light Industry.

Nor does the Moscow City Planning Commission pay due attention to formulating plans for enterprises, having failed to take the necessary measures to bring the January plans up to the level of the pace planned for this year.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum, Comrade K.U. Chernenko pointed out that organization and order constitute a key, fundamental question for us. There can be no two opinions on that score. Any disorderliness and irresponsibility results not only in material costs for society; it inflicts grave social and moral damage.

The task is to persistently carry out purposeful work to enhance state production planning, and labor discipline in all production sectors and in all links of the city's economy. Enterprises' economic leaders and party organizations must ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the plans for each month and quarter and for this year for all the main technical and economic indicators and must mobilize the efforts of the labor collectives to undertake a broad search for all internal economic reserves and to put them into operation.

Party raykoms and CPSU gorkom departments must step up their monitoring of enterprises' activity.

It is essential that they sum up the results of enterprises' work in January, make an in-depth analysis of the progress of the fulfillment of plans and pledges, and render specific aid to economic leaders and party organizations in eliminating shortcomings and difficulties. Each instance of the nonfulfillment of the prescribed targets must be viewed as a gross violation of party discipline, and leaders who fail to implement the necessary measures to improve enterprises' activity must be made strictly answerable.

The 25th city party conference noted that one of the main ways of enhancing production efficiency is the acceleration of the pace of enterprises' modernization and retooling. However, at many of the city's enterprises, this work is being implemented only slowly and the earmarked capital investments are being dissipated on many projects. The results of work for January show that thus far there has been no breakthrough in the matter. Some R82 million in capital investments, or 83 percent of the quota set for January, have been spent on the construction, modernization, and retooling of enterprises. Capital investments are being unsatisfactorily assimilated at enterprises of the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, the Ministry of the Timber Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry. Enterprises of the light, textile, food, meat and dairy industries, the fish industry and the Ministry of Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances have used only 74 percent of their capital investment quota.

For the successful implementation of the 1984 plan and the 11th 5-Year Plan targets as a whole, it is essential to persistently work to accelerate scientific and technical progress in industry and to introduce progressive equipment and technology into production more rapidly. The creation and introduction of flexible automated production facilities, robotized complexes, electronic equipment, and microprocessors require special attention.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at the Central Committee plenum drew attention to the need for the wide-scale implementation of the economic experiment to expand the rights and enhance the responsibility of enterprises for the results of their economic activity.

As is well known, 29 Moscow enterprises are taking part in this experiment. Many of them have done a large amount of preparatory work and are ensuring the fulfillment of plan targets. However, some of the city's economic leaders are still not doing everything to use the rights and opportunities granted to them for enhancing production efficiency.

The successful implementation of the experiment requires constant attention from party gorkom sections, CPSU raykoms, and party organizations, which must step up monitoring of its implementation and regularly generalize the experience of the collectives taking part in it. Without waiting for the results of the experiment, the economic leaders of all the city's enterprises must restructure their work more actively to bring it into line with the altered conditions and must persistently and purposefully resolve the strategic task of enhancing the efficiency of the work of every enterprise and of the city's entire economy.

The development of the city's economy largely depends on the work of transportation. The workers of all types of transportation have coped with the January targets. However, not all transportation work sectors have taken every step to meet the shipment requirements of the city and population. Contract commitments for the dispatch of freightcars and trucks to enterprises are still not being fully met and instances of the disruption of the regular movement of the city's passenger transportation are allowed.

The most important task for party organizations, economic leaders, and transportation enterprise collectives right now is to ensure the fullest mobilization of the existing reserves and potential for increasing the volume of shipments and make more efficient use of rolling stock. The work of transportation must be characterized by a precise rhythm, organization, and discipline in all its components.

In all sectors of the capital's economy, there are great opportunities and reserves whose mobilization will make it possible to ensure the solution of the tasks set by the party, to enhance social production efficiency, and to achieve higher indicators in fulfilling plan targets and the socialist pledges adopted for 1984. Our most important task is to make fuller use of these opportunities and reserves and to respond with specific practical deeds to the lofty demands of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum.

In light of the points put forward by Comrade K.U. Chernenko for implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum, accelerating the economy's development, and improving Soviet people's lives, great tasks face party organizations, economic leaders, and collectives in construction.

The results of work in the first month of this year attest that a difficult situation is taking shape in the city's capital construction. In January, 1.5 percent of the housing and 4.6 percent of the industrial and production areas stipulated in the annual plan were commissioned.

The leaders of the Moscow Gorispolkom's main construction administrations (Comrades Sukhotskiy, Kaminskiy, Molchanov, and Kovalev) have failed to draw the proper conclusions from the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum and have failed to take the necessary measures to improve capital construction in the city outlined by the 31 March 1982 Moscow CPSU Gorkom plenum.

Having analyzed in detail the reasons for the lag, V.V. Grishin emphasized that the main administrations for construction must implement specific measures to increase work volumes and build up the capacities of the construction organizations by at least 15-20 percent by the end of the 5-year plan. They must engage more vigorously in improving the structure of construction organizations and their specialization, enlarge them, and ensure that operations are carried out on a complete-cycle basis [po zamknutomy tsiklu]. The operation of the construction process must be better organized.

The raising of labor productivity is directly linked with the efficient use of construction machinery and mechanisms, V.V. Grishin continued. However, in many cases construction equipment is not used for the full working day and frequently stands idle. The shift index for the operation of truck cranes, excavators, and other machinery is dropping.

It is well known that there is a shortage of tower cranes for the construction of high-rise buildings. However, the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Installation and Special Construction Work (Comrade Kovalev) is failing to take steps for the production of reliable tower cranes at the enterprises under its jurisdiction or for the series production of small-scale mechanical facilities and convenient manual implements in short supply on construction sites.

In capital construction insufficient attention is being paid to saving resources. On many construction sites materials and structures are stored in violation of warehousing standards and spoil and become useless.

Hundreds of thousands of metric tons of cement are lost every year because of the uneconomical expenditure of commercial concrete and mortar. Having completed the development of residential regions, construction workers frequently leave behind a considerable quantity of perfectly usable metal and ferroconcrete structures which are then taken to garbage dumps or simply buried.

This irresponsibility cannot be tolerated. We must wage a resolute struggle against thriftlessness and impose strict sanctions on the culprits.

Attention must also be drawn to another grave shortcomings -- the poor quality of construction. In construction organizations there is still no real struggle for quality and essentially no one is responsible for spoilage.

The poor quality of construction is largely explained by the poor quality of the articles and structures produced by enterprises of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Construction Materials and the Construction Assembly Industry (Chief Comrade Ispov). The industrialization of construction is still being increased only slowly, and there are many standard sizes in industrial series, which holds up the work rate and has an adverse effect on its quality.

In 1984 great tasks face construction workers. They have been defined by the 25th city party conference and state plans and socialist pledges. It is important now that, in light of the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum, construction organization leaders, party raykoms, and party organizations should analyze the results of work in January and February and take resolute steps to ensure the fulfillment of the plans for each quarter, 6 month period, and year, paying special attention to enhancing organization, discipline, and order.

Proceeding from the tasks set at the plenum for improving Soviet people's daily lives, it is essential to pay more attention to improving the operation and repair of available housing, increasing volumes of capital and running repairs, and improving their quality. We must accelerate the implementation of measures for the widespread introduction of the achievements of science and technology in the city economy, the use of industrial methods for repair work, and the elimination of heavy manual labor in repairing buildings and road surfaces and cleaning streets and apartment block premises.

It is essential to improve the quality of housing and municipal services for citizens and to enhance the responsibility of housing operation workers and residents for the upkeep of apartment blocks and a high standard of services.

Muscovites' working, daily living, and leisure conditions must be constantly improved, and the work of trade, public catering, and consumer services enteprises and health, culture and educational institutions must be ameliorated, more consumer goods must be produced, and their quality must be improved. In all enterprises, organizations and institutions a tactful, attentive, solicitous attitude toward people and their needs and requirements must be ensured. Man is our society's chief asset. There is nothing more precious than his health, happiness, and welfare. An atmosphere of benevolence, of desire to help people, and of respect for their civic and personal dignity must be created and maintained in all the city's subcomponents.

Ensuring the successful development of the city's economy means working persistently and purposefully to implement the decisions of the Central Committee December (1983) and extraordinary plenums, building up the work rate, and achieving high economic and quality indicators in the 4th year of the 5-year plan.

This means persistently enhancing the intensification of production and its efficiency, improving the work of scientific institutions, accelerating the introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress, perfecting planning and management, successfully conducting the economic experiment, and raising our economy to a new and higher level.

That also means relying on the masses' experience, broadly developing the working people's creative activeness, supporting their progressive undertakings, and seeking an upsurge in labor and the successful fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

The fulfillment of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and the tasks set in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech require an improvement in the standard of the organizational and political work by all party organizations, an improvement in the forms and methods of party leadership, and the enhancement of the Communists' vanguard role. The success of the matter largely depends on their activeness, discipline, and responsibility and the correct selection, training, and placement of cadres.

Party organizations must seek to ensure that every party member strictly observes the CPSU rules and in all his deeds and actions inside and outside the collective set an example of a high degree of labor and social activeness, ideological conviction, discipline, and organization and influences and raising of nonparty people's consciousness.

Here it is important, as the CPSU Central Committee Plenum noted, to test one's decisions and the actions of the party organizations against the thoughts of the working class and its enormous sociopolitical and class feeling. We must heed the words emanating from the workers' midst, from the front line of socialist building, and consult with working people. This must be a paramount duty and profound internal requirement for all Communists.

The speech delivered by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the February Plenum was imbued with great theoretical depth and distinguished by its Marxist-Leninist scientific substantiation and political topicality. It convincingly showed that the boosting of the economy to a qualitatively new level in our society is ensured by social and ideological prerequisites, and urgent problems of the development of socialist consciousness in turn rely on a firm foundation of economic and social policy.

Building a new world means being tirelessly concerned for the molding of the new man and his ideological and moral growth, Comrade K.U. Chernenko said. As is well known, it is from this viewpoint that the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum examined questions of ideological and mass political work.

The city party organization is directing its efforts toward ensuring that ideological and educational work in the capital helps to raise Muscovites' Marxist-Leninist conviction, communist ideals, and political culture, enrich their spiritual lives, and stimulate their activeness in labor and social life.

Definite work has been done in Moscow to fulfill the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum. There has been an improvement in the standard of political and economic study, the effectiveness of the mass information and propaganda media has increased, and the struggle against bourgeois ideology and propaganda has been stepped up.

Ideological work is being carried out in inextricable conjunction with the solution of key national economic tasks.

At the same time much still has to be done to achieve in full the implementation of the tasks set by the party in the field of improving ideological work. In accordance with party instructions, it is essential to seek to ensure that our educational work accords with the nature of the great and complex tasks of improving developed socialism. It is essential to ensure the steady growth of the efficiency of propaganda and agitation and all educational measures.

The effectiveness of ideological education is manifested most graphically in the specific results of labor collectives' activity and the way in which they fulfill party decisions and state plans and seek to improve production efficiency and the quality of all their work. Party organizations must consider the enterprising and creative participation in labor and social life of every person, of every Muscovite to be the main indicator of the effectiveness of ideological and political educational work. Any assessment of what has been done must be verified by practical successes in economic building -- that is how the party sets the task, that is how it must be implemented in daily party work.

Questions of ideological-political, labor, and moral education must be examined more frequently at meetings of primary and shop party organizations and party groups, and considered when discussing Communists' reports, summing up the results of socialist competition, and assessing each person's contribution to the collective's overall achievements.

Party leadership of soviet, trade union, and public organizations must continue to be improved, the role of these organizations in resolving political and educational tasks must be enhanced, and exactingness must be increased with regard to the Communists working in these organizations. This is particularly important now in connection with the preparation and holding of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections.

The entire election campaign must be conducted under the sign of the further development of the socialist power of the people and the consolidation of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people and must serve to enlist extensively citizens in the management of state and social affairs. Party organizations are called on to closely link all election work with the specific tasks of the economic, sociopolitical, and spiritual development of the city's labor collectives.

The reports and elections held recently in the city party organization convincingly confirmed that the strength of our party lies in unity and cohesion and its ability to lead the masses.

At the report and election meetings, rayon party conferences, and 25th city party conference the Communists examined in a professional, critical way all aspects of party organizations' activity and analyzed in depth the progress in fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The report and election meetings and conferences in primary party organizations took place with a high attendance level on the Communist Party; every fifth CPSU member and candidate member addressed them. Over 100,000 critical comments and proposals were made aimed at further enhancing party influence in all spheres of the city's life.

The task now is to improve the standard of organizational party work, to improve the style and methods of party leadership, and to make skillful use of all levers of party influence on the solution of political and economic tasks.

The party gorkom and raykoms must direct more efforts toward enhancing primary party organizations' militancy and their influence on all spheres of socioeconomic and spiritual development and must seek to ensure that each of these organizations is the leader of the labor collective and implements in practice the most important condition for the party's authority among the masses -- the indivisible unity of word and deed.

Addressing the funeral meeting in Red Square, Comrade K.U. Chernenko said: "The main thing now is to be guided by the decisions of the 26th party congress and CPSU Central Committee plenums to reinforce and augment the positive advances in all spheres of public life. It is particularly important right now, comrades, to emphasize specific deeds and to seek real, substantial results.

"It is by these results that the party will assess the maturity of leading cadres, the work of labor collectives, and the achievements of republics, oblasts, and all sectors of our country's national economy."

All of us, each in his own sector, must draw serious conclusions from this. More self-criticism and responsibility, an end to a superficial approach toward matters. More orientation toward ensuring that the prescribed tasks are resolved. More attention toward people, persuading them by deeds, acts, and action. It is toward this that the party directs us today.

Explanatory mass political and organizational work around the results of the Central Committee extraordinary plenum and the provisions and conclusions of Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech has now been widely launched in the city's labor and academic collectives. We must continue to step up this work by every means. Its outcome must be the further consolidation of Muscovites' cohesion around the party. Its Central Committee, and the Central Committee Politburo, the further intensification of party organizations' political and organizational work, the improvement of the standard of economic management, the consolidation of discipline and organization, a new boost to the Muscovites' labor and social activeness, and the fulfillment in their entirety of all state plans and targets, counterplans, and socialist pledges.

Soviet people link all their achievements inextricably with the party's activity. And that is natural. Selflessly devoted to Lenin's cause, our party enjoys the masses' boundless trust and does everything for the people's benefit. The Communists and our entire people know that the party is leading us toward new achievements along Lenin's road, following the scientifically verified course of peace and creation. The people's indestructible moral-political unity and their monolithic cohesion around the party and its Central Committee serve as an effective factor in the successful solution of all tasks of Soviet society's economic, social, and spiritual development.

The Moscow city party organization has always been, is, and will be a forward detachment of the CPSU and a reliable buttress of its Central Committee. V.V. Grishin said in conclusion. It has now rallied its ranks even more closely and is prepared to fulfill any of the party's missions.

The capital's Communists and party organizations wholly and fully approve of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and the election of Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, that loyal son of our people, staunch Marxist-Leninist, and tireless fighter for peace and communism, as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Under the leadership of the Leninist Central Committee headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko and the Moscow City party organization will mount militant, purposeful organizational and political work to fulfill the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and with the entire party will struggle actively for the triumph of communist ideals.

ALIYEV, GORBACHEV SIGN COMPOSER'S OBITUARY

PM271510 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 6

[Fikret Meshadi Dzhamil ogly Amirov Obituary]

[Excerpts] Soviet musical art has suffered a heavy loss. Fikret Meshadi Dzhamil ogly Amirov, outstanding Soviet composer, Hero of Socialist Labor, People's Artist of the USSR, and of USSR State Prizewinner died 20 February 1984 in his 62nd year.

Fikret Amirov was born in 1922 in Kirovabad.

G.A. Aliyev, M.S. Gorbachev, P.N. Demichev, M.V. Zimyanin, B.I. Stukalin, V.F. Shauro, S.G. Lapin, G.M. Markov, F.T. Yermash, T.N. Khrennikov, K.M. Bagirov, K.A. Khalilov, G.N. Seidov, V.N. Konovalov, R.E. Mekhtiyev, Yu.Ya. Barabash, R.S. Gadzhiyev, M.A. Ibragimov, G.A. Ivanov, D.B. Kabalevskiy, A.D. Melikov, N.E. Niyazi, V.V. Panchenko, M.V. Pashkov, G.V. Sviridov, Z.P. Tumanova, B.A. Chaykovskiy, R.K. Shchedrin, and A.Ya. Eshpai.

ARKHIPOV PRESENTS BANNER TO SVERDLOVSK OBLAST

PM271127 Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Tass report under the general heading "Deserved Awards"]

[Text] Sverdlovsk -- The central Urals' working people made a weighty contribution to the fulfillment of the state plan for the country's economic and social development and of the 5-year plan's targets in 1983.

I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, congratulated the representatives of the oblast's working people on their labor victory and presented the award [the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee] at a festive meeting.

JANUARY INDUSTRIAL PLAN FIGURES REPORTED

PM241651 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 8, Feb 84 (Signed to Press 14 Feb 84) p 11

[Unattributed "Statistical Summary": "USSR Industry in January 1984"]

[Text] The EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA editorial office has obtained at the USSR Central Statistical Administration the following figures on the results of industry's work in January 1984. The total volume of industrial output increased 5.2 percent compared with the corresponding period last year.

Labor productivity rose 4.9 percent over the same period.

The January plan for the sale of output was fulfilled 102 percent. The plan was fulfilled by all the industrial ministries and union republics.

The figures for the fulfillment of the plan for the volume of sale of output and production growth and labor productivity growth rates broken down by ministry are cited below:

All-union and union-republic ministries and departments	Percentage of January plan fulfillment for sale of output	January 1984 as percentage of January 1983 for production volume	for labor productivity
Power and Electrification	100.6	106	105
Petroleum Industry	100.1	99.7	97
Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry	100.7	102	102
Gas Industry	102	106	103
Coal Industry	101	103	103
Ferrous Metallurgy	102	102	103
Nonferrous Metallurgy	101	106	106
Chemical Industry	102	110	110
For the production of mineral fertilizers	102	106	104
Power Machine Building	101	107	108
Heavy and Transportation Machine Building	101	105	105
Electrical Equipment Industry	104	106	107
Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building	102	108	109
Machine Tool and Tool Building	103	107	108
Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems	102	106	108
Automotive Industry	101	107	107
Transportation and Agricultural Machine Building	102	106	106

Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production	109	103	105
Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building	103	104	106
Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances	102	105	107
Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry	101	105	106
Construction Materials Industry	100.6	103	104
Light Industry	100.9	103	105
Food Industry	102	104	104
Fruit and Vegetable Farming	102	113	112
Meat and Dairy Industry	105	107	106
Fish Industry	108	102	103
Procurements	101	109	108
Main Administration of the Microbiological Industry	102	106	104

The indicators for the fulfillment of the plan for the sale of output and production growth rates broken down by union republic (including industry of union subordination) are characterized as follows:

Union republics	Percentage fulfillment of January plan for the sale of output	January 1984 as percentage of January 1983 for production volume
RSFSR	101	104.7
Ukrainian SSR	102	105.3
Belorussian SSR	102	106.9
Uzbek SSR	101	106.0
Kazakh SSR	102	104.1
Georgian SSR	103	108.2
Azerbaijan SSR	101	104.8
Lithuanian SSR	101	106.5
Moldavian SSR	103	102.6
Latvian SSR	102	105.2
Kirghiz SSR	102	104.6
Tajik SSR	101	107.4
Armenian SSR	102	109.4
Turkmen SSR	102	103.3
Estonian SSR	102	106.6

Production of the most important types of output was:

Types of Output	Output Produced in January 1984	January 1984 as percentage of January 1983
Electricity, billion kwh	139	105
Petroleum (including gas condensate), million metric tons	52.0	99
Gas, billion cubic meters	49.5	107
Coal, million metric tons	62.4	101
Steel, million metric tons	13.4	103
Rolled ferrous metals (finished), million metric tons	9.2	101
Steel pipes, million metric tons	1.5	97
Iron ore, million metric tons	20.5	100.4
Mineral fertilizers (in 100 percent nutrient terms), million metric tons	2.6	103
Chemical plant protection agents (in standard units), thousand metric tons	52.1	107
Caustic soda, thousand metric tons	263	106
Sulfuric acid, million metric tons	2.3	104
Synthetic resins and plastics, thousand metric tons	418	113
Chemical fibers and yarns, thousand metric tons	122	113
Motor vehicle tires, millions	5.5	103
AC electric motors, million kw	4.5	100.1
Metal cutting machine tools, million rubles	191	111
of which those with numerical program control	56.6	130
Forging and pressing machinery, million rubles	52.7	102
Automated manipulators with program control (industrial robots), items	713	154
Instruments, automation equipment, and spare parts, million rubles	364	105
Computer hardware and spare parts, million rubles	257	113
Petroleum apparatus, million rubles	18.6	106
Chemical equipment and spare parts, million rubles	70.7	106

Manufacturing equipment and spare parts for the light and food industry, million rubles	137	108
Mainline diesel locomotives, thousand hp	328	99.6
Mainline electric locomotives, thousand hp	336	116
Mainline freight cars, thousands	5.1	99.1
Tractors, million hp	4.3	102
Agricultural machinery, million rubles	292	108
Machinery and equipment for animal husbandry and feed production, million rubles	199	103
Grain harvesting combines, thousands,	10.4	107
Excavators, thousands	3.5	99.5
Commercial timber (not counting small timber procurers), million cubic meters	29.9	106
Paper, thousand metric tons	105	505
of which newsprint, billion square meters	2.8	107
Cement, million metric tons	10.8	102
Precast ferroconcrete (not counting output of auxiliary enterprises), million cubic meters)	8.8	106
Textiles of all types, million square meters	1,008	106
Knit underwear and outer wear, million items	143	105
Leather footwear, million pairs	66.2	105
Meat (from state raw material stocks), thousand metric tons	874	108
Sausages (from state raw material stocks), thousand metric tons	244	102
Edible fish products, including canned fish, million rubles	473	107
Butter (from state raw material stocks), thousand metric tons	64.0	108
Whole milk products in milk equivalent (from state raw material stocks), million metric tons	2.2	106
Margarine products (from state raw material stocks), thousand metric tons	138	106
Vegetable oil (from state raw material stocks), thousand metric tons	264	96
Clocks and watches, million items	5.6	96

Porcelain and earthenware and enamel dishes, million rubles	76.3	104
Radio receivers, thousands	767	103
Television sets, thousands	740	110
Of which color sets	295	114
Refrigerators and freezers, thousands	478	97
Of which those with a capacity of 200 cubic decimeters and more	250	106
Washing machines, thousands	354	110
Passenger cars, thousands	113	103
Motorcycles and scooters, thousands	99.2	105
Furniture, million rubles	613	107

Commentary on Summary

The industrial labor collectives, inspired by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, adopted socialist pledges for 1984 for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plan by mobilizing existing reserves, accelerating scientific and technical progress, strengthening planning, labor, and manufacturing discipline, developing the team form of organizing and encouraging labor, and reducing manual labor. The leading enterprises' initiative -- to ensure an above-plan increase of at least 1 percent in labor productivity and to reduce the prime cost of output by an additional 0.5 percent -- was enthusiastically welcomed and used everywhere as the basis for adopting socialist pledges.

The January plan for the volume of output sales and labor productivity growth was overfulfilled. A considerable quantity of gas and coal was extracted and metal, mineral fertilizers, synthetic resins and plastics, motor tires, machinery and equipment, paper, woolen textiles, radio receivers, television sets, refrigerators, and food products were produced over and above the plan. The total volume of industrial production rose 5.2 percent compared with January last year and rose 2.8 percent in terms of average daily production (there was one more working day this January than last year). Labor productivity in industry rose 4.9 percent over this period. Some 94 percent of the increase in industrial output was obtained by raising labor productivity.

On 1 January this year an economic experiment was initiated to expand the rights of production associations (enterprises) in planning and economic activity and to enhance their responsibility for the results their work -- an experiment which is being conducted, in accordance with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 14 July 1983 resolution, in five industrial ministries: the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of the Food Industry, the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Light Industry, and the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Local Industry. All these ministries have fulfilled the January plan for the volume of sale of output and for labor productivity growth, have increased the production of the most important types of articles for production purposes and consumer goods. Many associations and enterprises have ensured a higher standard in fulfilling contract commitments than last year.

Gas extraction is increasing at the enterprises of the Ministry of the Gas Industry. By comparison with January last year 8 percent or 3.4 billion cubic meters more have been extracted. In January the mines of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry extracted almost 62 million metric tons of coal, including 560,000 metric tons over and above the plan. The smelting of steel at the enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy increased by 340,000 metric tons by comparison with last year, or by 3 percent. The power machine builders increased the output of equipment for AES's by 50 percent, while they increased the production of gas pumping units for mainline gas pipelines (in terms of capacity) by 12 percent. The production of metal cutting equipment with numerical program control, industrial robots, and other production automation equipment, instruments, and computer hardware has been increased considerably. The Ministry of Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances has increased the output of manufacturing equipment for light industry by 9 percent, the production of manufacturing equipment for the food, meat and dairy, and fish industry by 11 percent, and the production of equipment for trade and public catering by 14 percent. Rapid growth rates have been achieved for the production of the most important types of output in the food, meat and dairy, and fruit and vegetable sectors.

At the same time individual sectors have still not taken proper steps to improve the organization of labor and production and to consolidate planning and contract discipline. In fulfilling the plan for the overall volume of output sales, the associations and enterprises of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the Ministry for Mineral Fertilizer Production, the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, and the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, and several other ministries have allowed a considerable lag in fulfilling their commitments for supplies even though they have fulfilled the plan for the overall volume of output sales.

The Ministry of the Petroleum Industry has failed to ensure the petroleum and gas condensate extraction level planned for January while the Ministry of the Chemical Industry has failed to ensure the production of thermoplastic pipes and pipeline components, the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production has failed to ensure the production of potassium fertilizers, the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production has failed to ensure the production of machinery and equipment for animal husbandry and feed production, the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry has failed to ensure the production of round timber, lumber, and cardboard, while the USSR Ministry of Light Industry has failed to ensure the production of textiles (except for woolen textiles), knitwear, and leather footwear. The level of labor productivity set for this January has not been achieved by the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry or the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production.

Analysis shows that alongside the enterprises which are coping successfully with their production targets and commitments there are still many enterprises whose labor activity results are below the pledges they have adopted. From the first weeks and first months of the year it is important that all labor collectives maintain the pace they have set and develop more actively the positive trends of increased efficiency.

At its December (1983) Plenum the CPSU Central Committee urged all our country's working people to launch socialist competition more widely for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1984 plan and the targets for the 5-year plan as a whole. The fulfillment of the plan targets and conscientious, highly productive labor are not only a duty but the patriotic obligation of every labor collective and every Soviet person.

CIVIL AVIATION MINISTERS VIEWS AEROFLOT'S GROWTH

LD251342 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 25 Feb 84

["Aeroflot: Reliability, Speed, Comfort" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS -- The Soviet commercial air fleet Aeroflot will carry 109 million passengers and more than three million tons of high-priority shipments and mail this year.

"This volume of transportation is unprecedented for any other major airline in the world, while for us its usual, routine work," Boris Bugayev, minister of civil aviation of the USSR, told a TASS correspondent.

He said that Aeroflot now is second only to the rail services among all types of transportation in the Soviet Union for the amount of passenger traffic it handles. In some areas, including Siberia, the Far East and the Far North whose accelerated development is a priority task in Soviet economic advancement plans, aeroplanes and helicopters bear the brunt of transportation operations. Populated localities in that vast region are spaced widely apart and difficult to get to, which makes aerial transport there irreplaceable.

The length of Aeroflot-served routes, linking more than 3,500 towns and villages across the land, is an impressive total of more than one million kilometres. By contrast, in 1923, the year it was founded, Aeroflot flew planes on just one route, between Moscow and Nizhnyy Novgorod (now Gorkiy), which was merely 420 kilometres long.

Since then the airline has been increasing the scope of its operations dynamically. New air lanes are being opened every year. Older airport facilities are being upgraded and new ones built. Over the past ten years alone more than 150 new freight and passenger terminals have been opened, which together can take care of over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers an hour. They include such major projects as Sheremetevo-2 in Moscow, Pulkovo in Leningrad and airports in Frunze and other cities. Over recent years a number of airports in the country's east, namely those in Krasnoyarsk, Yakutsk, Magada, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and Anadyr, have been built or overhauled to be able to accommodate modern airliners. This, the Soviet civil aviation minister said, has made it possible to accomplish an important social and economic task, that of linking outlying and difficult-of-access areas with the country's central regions.

The airline has sustained a plan-based effort to upgrade its facilities both in the air and on the ground. After adopting jet liners for regular service in the 1950's for the first time in the world, the Soviet airline has continued to hold leading positions in the field of technical progress. Its flying stock is being replenished with new, reliable and comfortable, aeroplanes and helicopters. Before being phased in, they undergo all-round tests involving the use of latest control instruments and techniques, which warrants the flights' high safety standards. The wide-bodies Ilyushin-86 350-seater, which has joined Aeroflot's fleet recently, is a striking embodiment of these merits.

First used on busy domestic routes, it is now confidently gaining ground in the airline's international operations and has won high praise from foreign experts and passengers. This jumbo jet and the other high-speed jet liners, including the IL-42, the Tupolev-154 and the Tupolev-134, now handle two-thirds of the overall air passenger load.

The task of turning Aeroflot into a model transport service is being fulfilled successfully. Both in the air and on the ground, Boris Bugayev said, the Soviet airline applies in practice its motto: "Reliability, speed and comfort". A newly-developed national automated air ticket selling and booking system, called "Sirena-2", has helped to further improve the standards of offered services. Its terminals are already functioning in Moscow, Kiev, Riga, Minsk and Kuibyshev. The system will be joined by Leningrad this year. Latest navigational equipment, automated flight control and landing aids, and highly-effective air traffic control systems are widely used on Aeroflot's domestic and international routes. All this ensures the safety of flights and conveniences that ... on a par with the highest international standards, the Soviet civil aviation minister said.

One is perplexed in this connection at the campaign of lies and insinuations that is being waged against Aeroflot by circles, primarily in the United States, that oppose the development of normal international links. "The war on Aeroflot" -- There is hardly another name for this campaign -- is part of the anti-Soviet hysteria that is being fomented by the Reagan administration and its western partners. Apart from their sordid political aims, the diatribes against Aeroflot also have fairly transparent commercial implications and aim to damage the competitive ability of the Soviet airline on international routes. Washington has banned Aeroflot flights to the United States and scrapped a number of agreements with the Soviet airline. Some other Western states also imposed "sanctions" against Aeroflot on the prompting of their overseas masters. Things have gone as far as overt provocations and acts of terrorism.

The aggravation of the international situation has in a certain measure affected the development of the USSR's links in aviation with some capitalist states, Boris Bugayev said. But on the whole they remain stable. Aeroflot operates flights to and from 118 cities in 95 countries. The Moscow-Paris service has been maintained for 25 years as have been regular aerial links between the USSR and Britain. Aeroflot's cooperation with Scandinavian countries is nearly 30 years old. The international trans-Siberian line is being used successfully. "We shall continue to develop business links with the foreign airlines, which favour equal and mutually beneficial partnership, also in the future," the Soviet civil aviation minister said.

Trying in vain to push Aeroflot planes out of international air routes, bourgeois propaganda is busy floating allegations that Soviet civil aviation bears a "militarized character."

There is hardly any need to prove the palpable absurdity of these claims but it would be worth paying attention to one circumstance: In most "purely commercial" western airlines, especially American ones, pilots were trained, as a rule, at military educational establishments and served in air forces, while the allegedly "militarized" Soviet airline trains its pilots itself in accordance with the specific needs stemming from its purely civilian tasks. The USSR has the world's only civil aviation academy as well as two higher and several secondary schools training civil aviation pilots. Students studying at Aeroflot's training centers include people coming from over 70 countries, among them some 100 fellowship-recipients of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

This keen interest in the Soviet system of training civil aviation personnel is not accidental. In the opinion of foreign experts, the standards of training pilots, engineers and technicians at Aeroflot's educational centers meet the highest requirements. This is also borne out by the fact that dozens of graduates from Soviet aviation colleges and schools are now senior executives in the national airlines of their countries or man successfully the latest aviation equipment.

It is also alleged abroad that Aeroflot engages in "massive military transportation operations." The Western press writes about these mythical operations with a stubbornness that deserves a better application, while trying not to notice such nobel missions of Aeroflot as carrying aid to victims of natural calamities, transporting wounded and sick people, and flying medicaments on international routes.

Encountering an atmosphere of enmity and provocations, the crews of the Soviet aeroplanes and the staff of the Aeroflot offices abroad display special efficiency and self-control, demonstrating high professional standards, correctness and goodwill. These are the mandatory professional qualities of each worker in Soviet civil aviation, the minister emphasized.

ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT'S FIRST MONTH VIEWED

PM231011 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 February 1984 Morning Edition carries on page 2, under the general headline "Encouraging Initiative: The Economic Experiment," a 700-word Minsk dispatch by own correspondent M. Shimanskiy headed "Meeting Demand" and a 650-word Kiev dispatch by own correspondent A. Dolenko headed "Trust and Responsibility." The dispatches are preceded by the following editorial introduction:

"Since January 1984 a large-scale economic experiment to expand the rights and increase the responsibility of association and enterprise collectives for the end results of work has been underway in a number of sectors. How are the new levers and incentives working, and is the initiative of workers and engineers increasing in the new condition? Isn't the result that, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko warned at the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, 'for some economic leaders the expectation of the results of experiments serves to cover up their passivity and their desire to work in the old way?' IZVESTIYA correspondents tell of the experiment's first steps in Belorussian light industry and the Ukrainian food industry."

Shimanskiy's Minsk dispatch outlines the impact of the experiment on Belorussian light industry so far. He sums up the results of the experiment's first month as follows: "First, the sector has begun to work more vigorously. An integrated approach toward planning and recording the financial autonomy indicators of production units, shops, sections, and teams has been introduced. There have been examples of enterprising, highly efficient work. However, not all enterprises in the sector are working smoothly. Parasitical sentiments have appeared in some places: If we're working in the new way, people argue, we ought to be the first to receive raw and other materials. The experiment presupposes an improvement in material and technical supply, but it also demands of absolutely everyone, from minister to ordinary worker, a truly proprietorial attitude toward everything that the sector possesses."

Dolenko's account of the introduction of the experiment in a Kiev confectionery factory is rather rosier: "The first month of work in the new style has shown that the intensive plans that have been adopted are being successfully fulfilled.

The economic experiment is promoting the development of the collective's creative initiative and an improvement in the quality and range of output. In order to attain the projected results, special attention is being paid to the correct utilization of economic normatives. In general, the material advantages that the experiment promises are increasingly tangible."

CPSU CC CRITICIZES ECONOMICS INSTITUTE

LD232227 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has reviewed the question of increasing the role of the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences in working out key questions of economic theory of advances socialism. The decision notes the definite work of the staff of the institute in the implementation of tasks proposed by the party in the sphere of economic theory.

At the same time, the contents and results of the scientific-research activity of the institute do not yet correspond to current needs. The institute has not become in practice the leading center of economics in the country, and there are serious shortcomings in the style and methods of organization of scientific activity. The decision of the CPSU Central Committee says that the institute is called upon to ensure a new, considerably higher standard of ideological theoretical work in economic science and to make a resolute move toward solving realistic, practical problems that are of primary importance to the economic strategy of the CPSU and the course of the party directed at the further perrection of advanced socialism and the fullest possible utilization of its advantages.

BRIEFS

NEW BRIDGE IN DNEPROPETROVSK -- The first supports have been installed for a new bridge across the Dnepr in Dnepropetrovsk. The bridge will link the city center with (Samarskiy) Rayon. [Summary] [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 84 AU]

OFF-SHORE GAS IN CRIMEA -- Another well has been put into operation at the (Golitsynskoye) off-shore gas condensate field in the Black Sea. It has been connected with the existing gas pipeline laid on the sea bed and running toward the western coast of the Crimea. The pipeline will now convey almost 5 times as much gas as when it was put into operation a year ago. In the future gas from the Black Sea will fully meet the needs of not only the Crimean, but also other southern oblasts of the Ukraine. [Text] [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 30 Jan 84 AU]

NEW PIPELINE -- There are no more tankers at the fuel distribution centers of the northern zone of the Donbass. On 30 January, fuel was for the first time delivered there by a pipeline that has linked the Lisichansk oil refinery with the industrial centers of the region. More than a million metric tons of oil products will be conveyed annually along the new route, and this offers a double advantage: it reduces the fuel losses in transportation, which averaged up to 40 liters per tank, and also frees more than 25,000 railraod tank cars. The new 170-km pipeline will significantly improve the supplies of oil products to the industrial region. The pipeline has been provided with automatic distribution systems and pumping stations. From now on, it delivers fuel and lubricants directly to the consumers in Donetsk, Gorlovka, Kramatorsk, and Krasnoarmeysk. When the second stage of the oil pipeline is put into operation, and it will run -- through Zhdanov and Melitopol -- to the Crimean Peninsula and the problem of supplying industrial enterprises in the southeastern Ukraine with fuel will be settled. When the pipeline reaches its planned capacity it will transport up to 6 million metric tons of oil products annually. [Text] [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1545 GMT 30 Jan 84 AU]

SOVIET MEMBER OF JOINT SPACE MISSION REPLACED

LD271837 Moscow International Service in French 1700 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cosmonaut Gennadiy Strekalov will be among the Soviet-Indian crew which will depart on a space mission this year. He replaces another Soviet, Nikolay Rukavishnikov, whose health is under medical observation. Gennadiy Strekalov, 43, who is beginning his training, worked on the orbital station Salyut more than 3 years ago.

COSMONAUTS CONTINUE EXPERIMENTS, EXPLORATION

LD271416 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- A TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre. Cosmonauts Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovyov and Oleg Atkov have been in orbital flight for twenty days now.

The programme of the work done by the crew last week included geophysical exploration, the unloading of the "Progress-19" spaceship, standard maintenance measures in the station. Photography of the Crommelin comet was carried out on February 24 for a further study of the inter-planetary medium, galactic and extra-galactic sources of radiation. Today the cosmonauts have started a series of package exploration of the earth's surface in the interests of resolving economic and scientific tasks. Photography and spectrometry are done during the flight of the orbital complex over the areas of the Carpathians, the Transcaucasus and Siberia.

To obtain information about the streams of gamma-radiation and charged particles in near-earth space, the crew has readied for operation a small-size gamma-telescope "Yelena" and carried out the first experiments.

On February 25 and 26, trajectory corrections of the flight of the research complex "Salyut-7" -- "Soyuz T-10" -- "Progress-19" were carried out with the use of the propulsion unit of the cargo spaceship. After the correction the parameters of its orbit are maximum distance from the Earth's surface -- 327, minimum distance -- 305 km, period of revolution -- 90.6 minutes, inclination -- 51.6 degrees.

According to medical control data, the cosmonauts Kizim, Solovyov and Atkov are in good health and feel well. Work in near-Earth orbit is continuing.

Flight Follows Program

LD270645 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovev, and Oleg Atkov continue their space flight. A correction of the flight trajectory of the manned space-complex was carried out on Saturday. This orbital maneuver was executed with the help of the booster system of the "Progress-19" cargo ship.

The cosmonauts are carrying out visual-instrumental observations of some areas of the country, on behalf of specialists from different branches of the economy and in accordance with the program of research into the earth's natural resources and the environment. The cosmonauts are feeling well. The flight is following the planned program.

Study Krasnodar-Caspian Areas

LD260042 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Our correspondent reports from flight control center. Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovev and Oleg Atkov are continuing their space flight. A correction of the trajectory of the manned complex was carried out Saturday. The maneuver in orbit was performed by using the propulsion unit of the Progress-19 cargo ship.

Under the program of study of the earth's natural resources and research into the environment, the cosmonauts are carrying out visual and instrument-assisted observations of individual areas of the country for specialists of various branches of the national economy. In particular, the subjects of their studies yesterday were agricultural land in Krasnodar Kray and a gas-bearing area in the north Caspian region.

The cosmonauts feel well. The flight is proceeding in accordance with the planned program.

Work Schedule Outlined

LD251330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0304 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Summary] The Soviet cosmonauts in orbit have a strict work schedule: 5 days a week, 8 hours every day, with 2 off days. "Today, Saturday, no compulsory work is planned but most probably the cosmonauts will organize a sort of subbotnik for unloading the Progress-19 transport craft."

Dock With Salyut-7

LD241724 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Another unmanned resupply vehicle, Progress-19, has just docked with the Salyut-7 orbiting research station currently manned by three Soviet cosmonauts. (?and) it delivered additional research equipment and other supplies to the crew. So to start off today's program, our science correspondent describes this unmanned cargo ship.

[Begin recording] Like the manned Soyuz space craft the Progress space truck, as it's called in the jargon of the experts, consists of three compartments. It has the same propulsion unit but more automatic devices and it has no descent module since it's not intended for recovery. Progress has a fuel compartment which serves to deliver propellant to the orbiting station and in addition to propellant is also delivers hundreds of kg of various cargo to the station.

The cargo is carried in a special cargo compartment, very much like a warehouse with a multitude of shelves where various objects are fastened in place. Usually progress also carries many research instruments, supplies of film and magnetic tape, for instruments already in operation aboard the station, containers with fresh water and various substances needed to maintain a normal atmosphere inside the station.

Following the docking of a Progress vehicle with the station the crew set to work transferring the newly arrived supplies to the station. Here's how the efficiency of such resupply operations has been summed up by cosmonaut Oleg Makarov. The cosmonaut points out that the Salyut station can receive both manned and unmanned space craft. It has a vast potential. The cargo vehicles naturally increase its length of service.

This makes for much longer stays by cosmonauts on board the station, and thereby increases the efficiency of space operations. It makes it possible to extend the scope of scientific and technological work for the needs of various branches of the national economy. [end recording]

LOW-PRESSURE GASE CURRENT RECTIFIER DEVELOPED

PM271037 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 6

[I. Novodvorskiy report under the rubric "Discoveries Nowadays": "Through the High Voltage Barrier"]

[Text] On 23 February 1984 the USSR State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries registered a discovery made by Doctor of Mathematicophysical Sciences A. Nastyukha and Candidate of Mathematicophysical Sciences Ye. Koltypin, employees of the I.V. Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy.

Thermonuclear fusion is both the problem of the century and the hope of the century -- the hope of cardinally resolving the question of mankind's energy supply.

Today thermonuclear devices are already primarily powerful energy systems. The strength of the current in them can reach hundreds of thousands of amperes.

The control of such currents is a very difficult matter, and the discovery made by the authors makes it possible to take an important step in mastering such strong electrical flows.

It used to be believed that an electric arc could not arise with the surrounding gas at low pressures because of the high voltage barrier which is particularly great precisely in rarefied gases. Therefore the possibility of a glow discharge (partly similar to the discharge that arises in a fluorescent lamp) becoming an arc discharge seemed unrealistic precisely at low temperatures. However, the Moscow physicists' research has shown the reverse. Under certain condtions a glow discharge turned into an arc.

The phenomenon that has been discovered is of great practical significance. In the very near future modern technology will begin operating with currents with an amplitude of 1 million amperes and more. Utilizing the discovered phenomenon, the authors have developed a series of powerful gas-discharge devices for various purposes. These are, above all, rectifier instruments -- plasma rectifiers operating in a regime of unilateral conductivity at pulse currents of up to 50,000 amperes, making it possible to replace dozens of large mercury arc retifiers. Furthermore, there are commutators operating with currents of 200,000-300,000 amperes in circuits with a voltage of more than 10,000 volts and capable of withstanding being switched on approximately 1 million times, and much besides. Certificates for inventions in our country and patents in other countries -- the United States, Britain, the FRG, and France -- have been issued for the technical devices created on the basis of the discovery.

USTINOV SPEAKS AT DEFENSE MINISTRY AKTIV MEETING

PM242015 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 First Edition pp 3-4

[Unattributed report: "To Strengthen the Motherland's Defense Capability. Meeting of the USSR Defense Ministry's Party Aktiv"]

[Text] Like all Soviet people, the personnel of the Army and Navy are currently demonstrating their close cohesion around the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and its Politburo, are unanimously approving and ardently supporting the party's domestic and foreign policies, and are expressing the readiness to labor selflessly for the implementation of communist ideals. A 24 February meeting of the USSR Defense Ministry's party aktiv also confirmed this with particular force.

The meeting was opened by Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

An honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was elected with enthusiasm.

A report entitled "The Results of the Extraordinary February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the Tasks of the Defense Ministry's Party Organizations Stemming From Its Decisions and the Propositions and Conclusions Contained in the Speech Made by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee" was delivered by Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense.

The extraordinary 13 February 1984 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, he said, was convened in connection with the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and of the international communist and workers movement, fervent patriot-internationalist, and tireless fighter for peace and communism. The rapporteur emphasized the exceptional services of Yu.V. Andropov in strengthening the economic and defense might of the Soviet Union and in implementing the Leninist foreign policy course of our party and state, which earned him enormous prestige and respect within the country and abroad.

The election to the post of CPSU Central Committee general secretary of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, an outstanding figure of our party and state -- the rapporteur noted -- was met with unanimous approval on the part of Soviet people, Army and Navy Communists, and all Armed Forces personnel. Konstantin Ustinovich devotes all his strength, energy, and great life experience and organizing talent to selfless service of party and people, and to the implementation of the immortal ideals of communism. He enjoys great prestige in the international communist movement. He is characterized by a profound understanding of the key issues of social development, by a realistic evaluation of what has been achieved and of the unresolved problems, and by an innovatory approach to any matter. Whatever area of the party's activity you take, he has made a prominent contribution to it.

We military people are well aware of the great attention Konstantin Ustinovich devotes to boosting the country's defense capability, strengthening the Armed Forces' combat might, and improving party political work in the Army and Navy.

The work of the extraordinary February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the defense minister said, was cogent proof of our party's monolithic cohesion, of the continuity of its policy, of unwavering loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and to the political course formulated by the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent Central Committee plenums.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's plenum speech contains a specific, profoundly substantiated action program for the implementation of the current, immediate, and strategic tasks facing the party and the people: the further improvement of our developed socialist society, the reinforcement of the country's economic and defense might, the boosting of the Soviet people's material and cultural living standard, and the maintenance and consolidation of peace.

Fulfilling the people's will and expressing accurately the radical interests of the working people, the party is displaying enormous concern to enhance production efficiency, accelerate the country's economic development, and further increase the people's prosperity. At the center of its constant attention are the main salients of economic progress: intensification, the introduction of scientific and technical achievements into production, the implementation of the Food, Energy, and other comprehensive programs, and the improvement of the system of economic management and of the entire economic machinery.

After describing the country's successes and the main directions of its further economic and social development, the rapporteur stressed that all this is a most important condition for increasing the defense might of the state and the combat potential of the Armed Forces.

Among the manifold tasks of communist building, the party is increasingly highlighting ideological work. Building a new world means showing constant concern for the molding of the citizen of the new world, for his ideological and moral growth.

The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov continued, devoted great attention to the current international situation and to the ensuing conclusions and tasks in the sphere of the party's foreign policy activity.

Reactionary imperialist circles, primarily those of the United States, are deliberately exacerbating the international situation. The Washington administration's every action in the political, military, economic, and ideological spheres is subordinated to the adventurist aim of establishing world supremacy and, above all, to achieving military superiority over the USRR and the other countries of the Warsaw Pact.

An uninterrupted and unprecedented buildup of nuclear and conventional armaments on the part of the United States and its NATO allies is under way. The United States and its allies intend to acquire decisive advantages over the Soviet Union via the accelerated implementation of major military programs. The United States is spending fabulous amounts on militarist preparations.

A particular danger for the cause of peace is posed by the deployment of the U.S. Pershing II and first-strike nuclear cruise missiles on the territory of West European countries in defiance of the will of their peoples. This has also rendered impossible the continuation of the talks on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe.

Imperialist reaction has unleashed a massive "psychological" war against the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries. This war is being waged incessantly on a wide scale, in a purposeful and sophisticated way, utilizing the latest technical resources and the dirtiest and most perfidious methods.

Under the conditions of the threat that is today being posed to mankind by the reckless adventurist actions of the aggressive imperialist forces, the Soviet Union as a great socialist power -- the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum noted -- fully recognizes its responsibility to the peoples to maintain and strengthen peace. We are open to peaceful and mutually advantageous cooperation with states of all continents.

We favor the peaceful resolution of international disputes on the basis of equality and identical security.

We do not need military superiority and we do not intend to dictate our will to others. However, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed at the CPSU Central Committee plenum, "We will not permit the military equilibrium that has been achieved to be smashed. And let nobody have the slightest doubt: We will continue to be concerned with strengthening our country's defense capability in order to have sufficient resources to be able to cool the hot heads of bellicose adventurists." No threats scare us!

Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov went on to dwell in detail upon the practical tasks of the further combat improvement of the Armed Forces stemming from assessments of the international situation and information from the CPSU Central Committee plenum. Much has been done, he said. The measures implemented in recent years in the Armed Forces have made it possible to significantly increase their combat potential. But this should not reassure us. We are obliged to realize that the more serious the threat to the motherland's security, the higher the Army's and Navy's combat readiness must be. We must improve arms and combat equipment, increase the standard of the troops' operational, combat, and political training, improve troop control, and develop military science and military art.

The CPSU Central Committee is posing sharply the question of enhancing discipline, organization, and order in all sectors of party, state, economic, and military work. Discipline in society is a determining condition for further increasing the people's prosperity. Any slackness and irresponsibility, as the last CPSU Central Committee plenum stressed, not only turn into material losses for society but also cause serious social and moral damage. That is why strengthening discipline is a task among tasks.

The general party directives on strengthening discipline and organization fully relate to the Armed Forces. Speaking about the main trends of the work to maintain strong discipline and firm regulation order among the troops, the defense minister especially pinpointed the role of the personal example and high exactingness of officers and Communist-leaders, and stressed the need to further intensify party influence on the entire multifaceted activity to strengthen discipline and law and order.

The resolution of these and other tasks is closely linked to improving the style and methods of leadership. The recent CPSU Central Committee plenum devoted great attention to this problem. It is of special significance for the Armed Forces too, the defense minister noted. He stressed the importance of instilling a sense of high responsibility in cadres and in each Communist. A responsible attitude to the job means above all party principledness, unity of word and deed, high executive discipline, a professional and purposeful approach, the ability to rely on the achievements of military science and the troops' experience, and reacting sensitively to local needs. A responsible attitude to the job means the capacity to find unexploited reserves and the ability to assess your own work from the standpoint of fulfilling the main tasks -- increasing the Armed Forces' combat readiness.

The responsibility of a worker in the central apparatus, the speaker continued, is indissolubly linked to his creative approach to problem solving and his sense of the new, and to his initiative. We, especially the leading staff, must show more initiative and innovation, give timely support to subordinates' initiative, and educate them in the spirit of constant creativity. Without initiative and without daring there is no progress. In the hustle of everyday affairs we must not lose sight for a minute of the main landmarks for building and training the Armed Forces.

It is we, comrade Communists, who are called upon to be farsighted, foresee the course of the development of world military-political events, and draw the necessary conclusions for practical activity to strengthen the country's defense capability.

The report went on to say that party organizations must improve the organization and verification of execution, step up the monitoring of the implementation of party decisions and of orders and directives, and increase both exactingness toward every Communist and personal responsibility for the state of affairs in the entrusted sector. It pointed to the need to achieve exemplary order in the activity both of the directorates and departments themselves, and of the Communists in subordinate formations and units, and at enterprises and in insititutions; and to achieve the organization of effective socialist competition. Party organizations' tasks at the concluding stage of an important political campaign -- the preparations for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet -- were examined.

The decisions of the extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the defense minister said in conclusion, and the ideas and propositions in the plenum speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, have been perceived by Communists and all Army and Navy personnel with unanimous approval as a combat action program of great mobilizing importance in resolving economic, social, and defense tasks, and in strengthening party leadership and communist education. There is no doubt that in response to the plenum's decisions, the Communists of the Army and Navy will rally still closer around the Leninist Central Committee and its Politburo, and will do everything necessary for our Armed Forces always to be fully ready to carry out any order from the motherland to defend the gains of socialism.

The tasks set the Armed Forces by the party Central Committee and the defense minister which were mentioned in the report, Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, noted in his speech to the meeting of the party aktiv, dictate the need to improve the standard of leadership and the style and methods of work of communists in the central apparatus. Much depends on their work for the Army and Navy to be an efficient, harmonious organism and in order for them to successfully carry out the tasks facing them today in the modern complex international situation.

Currently, new and higher demands are being made on the activity of party organizations and every Communist. In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum Comrade K.U. Chernenko set forth a clear-out program for the activity of party organizations in successfully carrying out the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. Communists in the Army and Navy perceived this program as a guide for action and a matter of vital concern to them.

The chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate spoke in detail of the tasks of profoundly studying and implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum and of the need to further increase the role of party organizations as the nucleus of military collectives and centers of everyday ideological educational activity. They are called upon to strengthen their influence on the selection, deployment, and education of cadres, to assess in a principled way Communists' activity and each man's contribution to the common cause, and to deal more severely with those who are not giving their all. It must always be remembered that a most important factor in the party's influence on the masses is the personal example of Communists.

Particular clearsightedness from the party is needed where complacency with what has been achieved, marking time, and laggardness have been noted. In other words, party organizations must rouse people to solve new and increasingly complex tasks.

Army Gen A.A. Yepishev noted that the reports and elections in the party organizations of the Army and Navy that have now ended made an in-depth analysis of the problems of increasing the effectiveness of party influence on all aspects of the life and activity of administrative organs, units, ships, and subunits. The measures outlined to increase combat readiness, the quality of combat and political training, and discipline and organization must be actively implemented. The key to success here is to ensure the unity of ideological and organizational work. This is a great art. This has to be studied by and taught to cadres persistently and punctiliously, as required by the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum.

Also taking part in the discussion of the report were Marshal of Aviation G.P. Skorikov, Admiral of the Fleet N.I. Smirnov, Army General V.I. Varennikov, Captain First Rank V.P. Udalov, and Colonel General Yu.A. Yashin. They analyzed a wide range of questions linked with carrying out the directives of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum and stepping up party organizations' influence on the solution of the tasks of further increasing the Armed Forces' combat readiness.

V.I. Drugov, first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, took part in the work of the party aktiv meeting.

The participants in the party aktiv meeting enthusiastically adopted a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and to Comrade K.U. Chernenko.

MILITARY, PEOPLES' UNITY HAILED ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM241156 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The People and the Army Are United"]

[Text] Today the legendary Soviet Armed Forces, bathed in glory for their victories, are 66 years old. It is a big and joyous festival for our entire people. Soviet people are warmly and wholeheartedly celebrating their armed defenders who are vigilantly standing guard over the motherland, paying a tribute of the deepest respect to the victors of the front, and paying homage to the radiant memory of those who gave their lives in battles for the freedom and independence of the motherland.

It is with a sense of great patriotic pride that we look back over the heroic path of the Army and Navy and reflect on the sources of their strength and invincibility. They lie in the wise leadership of the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee, in our country's socialist system, the most advanced social and state system ensuring the steady growth of the USSR's economic and defense might, and in the unbreakable unity of the people and the Army.

A product of October, the Soviet Army and Navy, created by the party headed by the great Lenin to protect the gains of the socialist revolution, have a genuine people's character and this is what fundamentally distinguishes them from the armies of the capitalist states. In the Soviet land the "man with a gun" is loved and respected as the son of the working people, as their loyal and valiant defender. The armed force of the workers and peasants, V.I. Lenin pointed out, "is not separate from the people, like the old regular Army, but is linked most closely with them."

The nationwide support and the infinite trust, love, and concern of the broad masses of working people was an inexhaustible source of Soviet troops; bravery, steadfastness, heroism, and victories in the civil war. This unbreakable unity of the Army and the people, cemented by the Communist Party, was most strikingly manifested in the great Patriotic War. The front and rear were a single entity. Not for a moment did the Soviet people leave their Army and Navy without support and attention; and it was with heroic labor that they forged the weapons for the front. United, our people and their Armed Forces gained a victory of worldwide historic significance.

The building of a society of developed socialism in the USSR with its mighty productive force and enormous economic, scientific and technical, and spiritual potential strengthened the unity of the people and the Army even more and consolidated its social, political, economic, and ideological foundations. In view of the intensification of imperialism's aggressiveness, the party and the people, displaying concern for strengthening the country's defense capability, have supplied the Armed Forces with modern equipment and formidable weapons enabling them to carry out operational-tactical and strategic tasks of any magnitude in defense of the motherland and socialist gains.

Servicemen respond to this nationwide concern, love, and attention with selfless military labor. They are perfecting their combat expertise, mastering the weapons and equipment entrusted to them, strengthening discipline, and increasing their vigilance. Born of the Soviet people, a new historical community of people, they see it as their sacred duty, as the USSR Constitution states, to reliably defend the socialist homeland and be in a state of constant combat readiness guaranteeing an immediate rebuff to any aggressor.

When necessary our servicemen also participate in the solution of national economic tasks. Military drivers, for example, help kolkhozes and sovkhozes with the harvest and with grain shipments. Subunits of railroad troops are participating in the construction of the Baykal-Amur railroad. Together with the population of cities and villages servicemen combat natural disasters. When they have completed their service and received a sound tempering in the Army or the Navy they travel on Komsomol permits to the country's new construction projects, to the North and Far East where manpower is needed, and become guards of the 5-year plan. The people rightly call our Army and Navy a school of courage, diligence, and high morality, the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum noted.

Thousands of visible and invisible threads link the people and their beloved offspring -- the Army and Navy. The collectives of plants, factories, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and creative organizations are carrying out a great deal of patronage work among army subunits, while military units and ships exercise patronage over schools, vocational and technical schools, and tekhnikums. Trips by servicemen to enterprises, visits to units and ships by young people before they are drafted, joint subbotniks and recreational evenings, mutual patronage concerts by amateur artistes, and warm, cordial meetings between servicemen and the population during exercises and maneuvers -- all these are striking manifestations of the unbreakable unity of the party and the Army and, at the same time, effective ways of instilling in servicemen a sense of being an organic part of their people who are building communism.

The unity of the people and the Army of the common goals of the working masses and the armed defenders of the motherland are being strikingly manifested during the preparations for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections.

Full-fledged citizens of the country, servicemen live the same life and have the same interests and thoughts as the people. The results of the February (1984) extraordinary Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR met with a lively response in their hearts. By voting at the election for candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people, servicemen will be voting for further prosperity for their beloved motherland, the strengthening of its economic and defense might, and the implementation of the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. Socialist competition has developed extensively in units and on ships, as in the country as a whole, for a fitting greeting to USSR Supreme Soviet election day.

Our servicemen are deeply aware of the complexity of the present international situation and the threat to mankind posed by the reckless adventurist actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism. United with the people, rallied unbreakably around the Communist Party, and loyal to the glorious combat traditions of the Armed Forces, they are vigilantly guarding peace and socialism side by side with the armies of the Warsaw Pact states and are ever ready to honorably fulfill their patriotic and international duty.

NEED FOR BOOSTING SOVIET DEFENSE STRENGTH VIEWED

AU241459 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND In German 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Army General Mikhail Zaytsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, on the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy: "Our Soldiers' Duty Is To Protect the Peaceful Work of the People"]

[Excerpt] The building of the developed socialist society in our country laid the lasting foundation for strengthening the USSR's defense capability and increasing the fighting strength of the Soviet Armed Forces. Faithful to Lenin's heritage, the CPSU and the Soviet Government consider it their sacred duty to do everything to keep the country's defense power at the level which secures the peaceful work of the Soviet people, their firm confidence in the future, and a high degree of preparedness for mobilization. When the Soviet Union strengthens its Armed Forces, it is not threatening anyone but it is merely seeking to ensure its own reliable defense. Never, not even under the conditions of a very tense situation, can it or will it jeopardize its security and that of its friends and allies.

The Policy of Aggression of Imperialism Fans Tensions

The main cause of the dangerous tensions in the world is the aggressive foreign policy of the ruling circles in the United States, the militaristic course of the current U.S. Administration, and the imperialist piracy that it is practicing in various parts of the world. Official Washington is seeking at any cost to disrupt the balance of power, to obtain military superiority for the United States, and to ensure for itself a predominant position in the world. This policy of the White House and the practical steps it has taken in the world have caused the danger of war to drastically increase, and are threatening all peoples on earth.

The U.S. ruling circles have disregarded the peoples' design for peace and have begun to deploy new U.S. first-strike weapons in several West European countries. This has increased the nuclear danger on the European Continent.

Washington's policy is most deeply hostile to the interests of peace and of international cooperation not only in Europe. New countries and regions are becoming the subject of the imperialist foray. The U.S. soldier is bringing death and devastation to the Middle East, Central America, and Grenada in its attempts to keep dictatorial regimes in power or to force them upon the peoples.

Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, declared at the February (1984) Central Committee Plenum: "We are well aware of the danger that results for mankind today from the rash and adventurist actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism, and we are saying this loudly and clearly, and we are drawing the attention of the peoples all over the world to this danger. We need no military superiority and we do not intend to dictate our will to others. However, we will not permit that the military balance be destroyed either. And no one should have the slightest doubt about this: We will continue to see to it in the future that our country's defense strength is consolidated, and that we have adequate means suitable to cool off the hotbeds of the militant adventurers."

A High Responsibility in the Heart of Europe

The members of the Armed Forces of the USSR are aware of the complicated and explosive nature of the current international situation, and they consider it their patriotic and internationalist duty to untiringly consolidate their military skill and to constantly increase their combat preparedness. Like all Soviet people they are ready to do everything to increase the power of their homeland and to strengthen its security and the security of all mankind.

The Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG), which in the heart of Europe, at the demarcation line between two worlds, is directly facing the strongest grouping of the NATO bloc, is fulfilling responsible and honorable tasks. For the GSFG members the increase of the threat of war by imperialism is a reality of our hard times. Their task is clear: "To impede and thwart any attempts by the imperialists to disturb the peaceful construction work of the Soviet people and their friends.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state are constantly seeking to increase the GSFG's combat potential. This potential is a firm combination of high-quality technical equipment, military skill, and unshakable morale. Our troop units and groups of units are equipped with most up-to-date weapons and technical means of combat. The sons and grandchildren of the veterans augment the military glory of their fathers and grandfathers. The symbols of victory, the troop banners, are in reliable hands.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER KURKOTKIN INTERVIEWED

AU241400 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Interview given by Semen Kurkotkin, Marshal of the Soviet Union and deputy defense minister of the USSR, to SMENA correspondent Andrey Sholokov for the "Place for Two": "The Rear, This Forge of Victory" -- distributed by NOVOSTI; initial paragraph is SMENA introduction]

[Text] The Soviet Union's Armed Forces are marking their 66th anniversary today. During this entire period they have been diligently guarding the Soviet people's peaceful work. A significant role in their mission has been played by the Army and Navy rear units.

[Sholokhov] Could you explain the role of rear units in the USSR's Armed Forces?

[Kurkotkin] The rear units are the connecting link between the Soviet Army, the Navy, and the country's economy. The stronger the economy is, the greater the possibilities are for the rear units to ensure all that is needed for the troops' activity. The rear units supply fuel, ammunition, food, clothing, and footwear for the soldiers; they take care of their health, accommodation, and financial needs. Automobile, railroad, and road troops; the auxiliary fleet; the pipeline, engineering-Air Force, Air Force-technical, and certain other formations and units, bases, and warehouses for material stocks are all part of the Army and Navy rear.

[Sholokhov] How did the rear units of the USSR's Armed Forces emerge?

[Kurkotkin] The rear units are an inseparable part of the Armed Forces; that is also why their emergence is closely connected with Army history. Systemized rear bodies were set up in 1918. Gradually the rear of the Army and the fleet was improved. Specialized units and formations became part of it. Their capabilities and mobility constantly increased, because automobile traffic increased and because the Soviet Union's economic and defense strength consolidated. Despite this, the very first days of World War II demonstrated that supplying the Armed Forces demanded a new approach. The management bodies of the rear were reorganized and the entire system of supplies to the Army and the front was perfected. Inthose difficult times the rear became something qualitatively new. Its ability to expeditiously distribute material means considerably increased; the autonomous nature of rear troops was enhanced and their mobility according to the combat situation was increased both with regard to forces and to means.

[Sholokhov] What was the extent of the rear units' activity during World War II?

[Kurkotkin] We can get an idea of that on the basis of certain data. During the Belorussian "Bagration" operation in the summer of 1944, the Soviet troops used up 400,000 tons of ammunition -- that is, approximately 700 railroad trains -- 300,000 tons of fuel and lubrication materials, and up to 500,000 tons of foodstuffs and feed. And all this was brought to the front lines by the military rear formations. During the 4 years of the war, about 40 million tons of foodstuffs and feed, 10 million tons of ammunition, and more than 16 million tons of fuel was used up, approximately 100,000 km of roads were built and repaired; and more than 6,000 field air fields were set up. Army doctors returned 72 percent of the wounded and 91 percent of the sick to their units. The rear units of the Soviet Army also helped Polish, Czechoslovak, and other foreign units which were formed on the USSR's territory and which fought at the side of the Soviet Army against the common enemy. The rear units also granted material assistance to the liberated peoples of Europe. For instance, on the basis of a decision adopted by the Soviet Government, Soviet troops gave the population of the liberated countries more than 90,000 tons of foodstuffs from their own stocks. Tens of thousands of soldiers have been awarded decorations and medals; 52 of them have become Heroes of the USSR and 30 Heroes of Socialist Labor.

[Sholokhov] In recent years the rear has been perfected. What is the main characteristic of the present phase of its development?

[Kurkotkin] Today the rear has become more mobile; we can say that its units and formations have become totally motorized.

The current consumption, and thus also the volume of all that the troops need, has increased since the World War II. The results of socialist economy have made it possible to equip the hinterland with the most modern means of transportation, heavy-tonnage train systems, ocean-going and river ships, military and transportation aircraft and helicopters, and heavy-tonage trucks. The important thing is that technology is being used comprehensively. Apart from that we have a rich arsenal of technology which makes it possible to build and repair roads quickly and to construct access roads. The current high dynamics of combat activity grants only brief intervals to add to the supplies of ammunition and fuels and to supply meals. That is why the rear services must provide the soldiers with literally everything they need on the march.

A significant role is played here by mechanized loading and unloading, by the use of container transportation, as well as by the use and replacement of standardized trailer equipment. A particular problem today is the timely tanking of fuel on the march and during combat. Such operations require that the drivers of tankers work in harmony with combat technology. Field supply centers are helping resolve this problem, too. Great skill is needed in supplying fuel to ships at sea and to aircraft in the air.

New technology has introduced great changes in the traditional functions of the hinterland of our armed forces. For instance, today food is being prepared, and even bread baked, on the march; kitchens are keeping up with the troops. The evacuation of the wounded from combat areas will be accelerated by the search-and-find system and by transportation vehicles in which the wounded are given first aid. Significant changes have also taken place in the technical equipment of the directing bodies in the rear. Perfected signals and electrical engineering equipment, from simple facilities to efficient computers, all enable us to program the processes of rear supplies to the troops. We can then undertake appropriate measures, in line with the results and data acquired.

The rear of the Soviet Armed Forces is capable of providing the troops at any moment with everything needed to carry out combat tasks.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER TOLUBKO ON MILITARY READINESS

AU241551 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] The 66th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces is celebrated on 23 February. On this occasion Marshal of the Artillery Vladimir Tolubko, commander in chief of the Soviet Strategic Troops and USSR deputy minister of defense, Hero of Socialist Labor, gave an interview to Stepan Fedosiyev, NOVOSTI correspondent. We are submitting this interview to our readers for whom it was specially dispatched.

[Fedosiyev] How can you describe the sources of strength and power of the Soviet Armed Forces, of their victories over the aggressors?

[Tolubko] The historical victories of the USSR Armed Forces over the enemies who tried by force of arms to liquidate the Soviet state are based on profound social sources. They are laid down in the very nature of socialist society, in its superiority over the capitalist system in all basic areas: the economic, political, ideological, and military sectors.

As early as during the civil war (1918-1920) the rising new socialist economic system, the unity of the workers' class and peasants, their loyalty to the ideals of revolution ensured the mobilization of human and material resources at the front for victory over the interventionists and over counterrevolution within the country.

The opportunities presented by socialism in regard to defense questions, manifested themselves with particular strength in the war against the fascist Hitlerite aggressors (in 1941-1945). Regardless of the fact that the Soviet Union lost a number of important economic areas, that it produced 3-4 times less steel and fuel than Germany, in the course of the war the Soviet economy not only caught up with, but outstripped the German economy in regard to the production of weapons and combat technical equipment. As early as in summer 1941 the USSR and Germany possessed nearly the same quantity of weapons, while by 1945 the Soviet Armed Forces were 7.4 times superior to the enemy in the Air Force, 2.8 times superior in tanks and self-propelled artillery guns, as well as 3.2 times in mortars.

The Soviet socialist system produced and gave impetus to powerful progressive forces in a new society, such as: ideological-political unity of the people, Soviet patriotism, and proletarian internationalism as well as the friendship of the multinational peoples of the USSR, and their cohesion around the CPSU. This greatly increased the strength of the Soviet Armed Forces, it endowed them with an unprecedented force of resistance. The just and liberating goals of the war waged by the USSR were the source of the Soviet people's mass heroism on the front and in the rear.

The results of World War II confirmed the indestructible strength of socialism, they serve as a tremendous warning against the newly appeared organizers of "crusades" against the USSR. The supporters of military adventures should be reminded of the Russian proverb, which has already been confirmed on several occasions by history: "Whoever comes to us with a sword, will die from the sword!"

[Fedosiyev] How can you describe the present state of the USSR Armed Forces and their combat readiness?

[Tolubko] The structure, the armament, and the technical equipment of the Soviet Armed Forces underwent basic changes in the postwar period. Nuclear missiles, of various types -- from intercontinental to operational-tactical missiles -- represent the basis of their combat strength.

In developing and strengthening the material basis of all branches of the Armed Forces, we are assessing the fact that the United States and the other NATO members are placing emphasis on their rearmament and the perfection of their weapons and technical equipment. An economic and scientific-technical potential has been created in the USSR, which is the lasting material basis of the Soviet state's defense power and of the combat strength of our Armed Forces. We are able, as it has been confirmed on several occasions, to produce any type of weapon within the shortest time, such as the types of weapon the enemies of peace themselves would like to use.

Our Army's and Navy's combat readiness was highly evaluated by Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, USSR minister of Defense. In a recent speech to Armed Forces veterans he noted the increasing fighting capacity of our units, groups of units, and ships, the great skill and industriousness of the Soviet soldiers, their sense of responsibility, as well as the manly courage and heroism they demonstrate in rendering international assistance to our friends and allies whenever this is necessary. Our cooperation with the armies of the Warsaw Pact member-countries and with other friendly countries is becoming increasingly close. We can boldly state that our Army and Navy have improved their quality standards, which enables them with great realiability to accomplish their combat tasks, the minister of defense stated in his speech.

The strategic nuclear forces represent the basis of the Soviet Armed Forces. They include the units and groups of units of the Strategic Rocket Forces, the Navy, as well as the Air Force. They are all in a state of permanent combat readiness.

[Fedosiyev] How about the present balance of military-strategic forces existing between East and West? What is being done to keep up the security of the USSR, of its friends and allies?

[Tolubko] An approximate balance of forces was established between the USSR and the United States, between the Warsaw Pact Treaty Organization and NATO during the period between the 1960's and the 1970's and this balance still exists in medium-range nuclear arms, in strategic nuclear arms, and in conventional weapons. The Soviet Union thinks that approximately parity is sufficient for the needs of defense.

The present U.S. Administration, however, after having proclaimed and openly adopted a militarist, aggressive line of policy, is trying by all means to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as well as to ensure a dominant position for the United States in the world with the opportunity of dictating its will to all peoples. To put it more precisely, in order to achieve this goal over 400 military programs have been adopted by the Pentagon aimed at the production of qualitatively new weapons systems -- nuclear arms, as well as conventional arms -- and at the militarization of space.

The deployment of U.S. missiles on the territories of certain European states, which is in the process of being implemented, has disrupted the military balance to the advantage of NATO in Europe and on a global scale. The U.S. missiles are aimed at a first strike against vitally important projects and targets in the Warsaw Pact member-states, as well as in the western regions of the Soviet Union.

In exchange for this the Soviet leadership was forced to adopt the necessary reciprocal measures. They have been described in the declaration issued by Yu.V. Andropov on 24 November 1983. Along with the deployment of operational-tactical missiles with enhanced range on the territories of the GDR and the CSSR (based on agreements with these countries' governments), existing Soviet military devices will be deployed in the oceans and seas. These devices -- as to their long range, power, accuracy and, in the first place as regards their speed -- represent a danger for U.S. territory commensurate with the threat posed by the American missiles deployed in Europe to the USSR and its allies. Naturally, other measures will be adopted as well. However, our reciprocal measures will correspond to the actions of the NATO countries. We are not striving for military superiority, but we will not permit the United States to achieve such superiority either.

In staunchly pursuing the struggle for the preservation of peace on earth, the CPSU and the Soviet state will do everything necessary to ensure the security of their own country as well as the security of their allies and friends, as Comrade Konstantin Chernenko the new general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee declared. For this purpose they will increase the combat strength of the Soviet Armed Forces -- a powerful factor in taming the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction.